Tuesday,
28th August, 1956

LOK SABHA DEBATES

VOLUME VI, 1956

(13th August to 8th September, 1956

THIRTEENTH SESSION, 1956

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 28th August, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Steel Imports

*1490. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement has been concluded with West Germany for the import of the steel; and

(b) if so, the quantity of steel to be imported therefrom?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). No agreement has been concluded with the West German Government for import of steel. An agreement has, however, been concluded on 12-3-56 with a West German firm for the import of 205,000 Metric tons of steel for supply during 1956 to 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know what is the phased programme of the delivery of this steel in India?

Shri M. M. Shah: They are going to deliver 45,000 tons in 1956, 80,000 tons in 1957 and 80,000 tons in 1958.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know how the prices charged by West Germany compare with the prices charged by the U.K.?

Shri M. M. Shah: There is no actual comparison of prices. As a matter of fact, in answer to question No. 1492 on the Order Paper today, a detailed statement is going to be given. On an average, foreign steel prices are higher than indigenous prices by about Rs. 200 per ton.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I do not quite follow, Sir.

Shri M. M. Shah: I said that in answer to question No. 1492, a detailed statement is going to be given.

Mr. Speaker: Let it also be answered just now, and both may be taken together.

इस्पात का आयात

*१४९२. **श्री भागवत झा आजाद :** क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५६ में अब तक किन-किन देशों से इस्पात का आयात हुआ है ;

(ख) इन देशों में से प्रत्येक से किस किस दर से और कितनी कितनी मात्रा में इस्पात खरीदा गया है ;

(ग) बाहर से मंगाये गये इस्पात के मूल्यों और स्वदेशी इस्पात के मूल्यों में क्या अन्तर है ;

(घ) क्या अन्य कुछ देशों से भी इस्पात मंगाने के बारे में उन से बातचीत चल रही है ; और

(ङ) यदि हां, तो किन-किन देशों से, कितनी कितनी मात्रा में तथा किन-किन दरों पर इस्पात खरीदा जायेगा ?

भारी उद्योग मंत्री (श्री म० म० शाह): (क) तथा (ख) एक विवरण सदन की मेज पर उपस्थित किया जाता है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट ९, अनुबन्ध सं० ८]

(ग) बाहर से मंगाये गये इस्पात के भाव देशी इस्पात के भावों से लगभग २०० रुपये प्रति टन अधिक होते हैं । यह अन्तर लोहे के वर्ग पर प्राय: निर्भर होता है ।

(घ) जी, नहीं ।

(ङ) प्रश्न ही नहीं उठता ।

Shri A. M. Thomas: Let the answer be given in English also.

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 8].

(c) Foreign steel prices are generally higher than indigenous prices by about Rs. 200/- per ton, depending on the category.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Is the steel that we have imported by now in accordance with our demand that we have placed or there is any lag in the import?

Shri M. M. Shah: I think the arrivals are very satisfactory. So far, out of 1 million tons already ordered, 8,54,595 tons are due to arrive and most of it has already arrived.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: Have we placed orders for import for all our requirements for the current year or have we left any lag?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): Next year?

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: 1956.

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: The position, I think, is reasonably well covered. My own trouble, in fact, is that the goods that are coming in are not being lifted. We have got to make arrangements for storing them because they are coming in such large quantities. Our plans for the next year have to be thought of.

Shri D. C. Sharma: May I know under what currency the cost of the steel is going to be paid? Is there going to be any barter deal with any country so far as the import of steel is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: So far as payment is concerned, it differs from country to country. Forc ertain goods we have to pay in rupees. In some other cases, we have to pay in dollars. In some cases it comes as part of the aid. We have no specific barter deal as such. I can only say that we are paying in all currencies.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy: What is the proportion of our imports to our total demand this year? What is it likely to be in the next year?

Shri M. M. Shah: The current indigenous production is 1·26 million tons. The anticipated imports are about 2 million tons.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: It is stated that a quantity of 1·1 million tons of steel has been allotted for the year 1956-57. So far only 4,12,000 tons has been allotted. May I know whether we can reasonably expect that the full allocation will be fulfilled?

Shri M. M. Shah: As I have already indicated, 8,54,595 tons have arrived. According to the programme, another 2 to 3 lakh tons are due to arrive shortly. That would fulfil all our expectations regarding the import programme.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know whether the steel is available to the consumers at the price stated in the reply?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: One can hope that it is so. So far as the protected consumers are concerned, we are making it available.

Shri A. M. Thomas: The hon. Minister referred to the fact that goods arriving are not being lifted. May I enquire whether the Cochin port is under-worked and what is it that stands in the way of the Government diverting some of the goods to that port?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: Nothing stands in the way except that we have to lift the goods from the Cochin Port to the place of consumption which is not quite an easy matter.

Seth Govind Das: For how long shall we have to import steel? After the work commences in Bhilai, will the country be self-sufficient as far as steel is concerned?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I hope the country will not be self-sufficient. The industrial progress of a country depends on its consumption of steel. It is my expectation that our demand will rise reapidly far above what we can produce so that we can go on planning for more production.

Shri B. D. Pande: With the advent of the plants at Durgapur, Rourkela and Bhilai, are we supposed to be self-sufficient in steel?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: I have already replied that our expectation is that we may be short of 1 million tons.

Shri Damodara Menon: In answer to part (d) of the question, the hon. Minister said that no negotiations are now being carried on with any other country for the import of steel. May I know what persuaded the Government to carry on negotiations with West Germany and not with any other country?

Shri M. M. Shah: In the statement the names of 21 countries are given. The answer only indicates that no other negotiations than the ones given in the statemen are being undertaken.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: The hon. Minister said that 8,95,000 tons have since been imported. We are going to import 1 million tons more during next few months. How is it possible to import another 1 million tons in view of the shortage of shipping space?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: May be the facts mentioned by the hon. Member are correct. We still expect that between now and March 1957 which is the official year, we will be able to complete our import programme or very nearly complete it. Th_

problem of shipping space being short is certainly there.

Shri P. C. Bose: It has been said that the cost of imported steel is Rs. 200 more than indigenous steel. May I know whether this higher price is due to transport charges?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: No. As a matter of fact, they are largely higher production charges and to some extent the cost of freight from the place of production to India.

Spun Silk Mills

*1491. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made so far regarding the proposal to establish spun silk mills in the States of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu and Kashmir;

(b) the number of mills that are required to consume the annual export quantity of silk waste: and

(c) the number of spun silk mills at present working in the country?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) the Government of Assam have taken preliminary steps to establish a spun silk mill of 3000 spindles. Similar proposals from the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir are under the consideration of the Central Silk Board;

(b) One or two mills with a total capacity of about 6,000 spindles.

(c) Only one at Chennapatna in the Mysore State.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know how much silk waste was exported last year, that is 1955?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In 1955, 1·5 lakh pounds of silk waste was exported.

Shri S. C. Samanta: How much was utilised by the Mill in Mysore which has been mentioned by the hon. Minister?

Shri K. C. Reddy: In Mysore, the silk waste that was utilised by the Spun silk mill was about 3 to 4 lakh lbs. the capacity of the silk mill is to use about, I think, 8 lakh lbs. But, they were able to utilise only 3 to 4 lakh lbs.

Shri Shivananjappa: May I know whether Government are aware that there is a lot of silk waste lying unutilized in the godowns in the State of Mysore for want of export facilities?

Shri K. C. Reddy: Yes, Sir; Government is aware that there is a large stock of silk waste, but Government cannot take any risk of starving the only spun silk mill at Chennapatna of the raw material that it requires. Though it consumed only about 4 lakh lbs. last year, it is now making better progress and it is expected it would need about seven to eight lakh lbs. during this year. We are examining all aspects of the question, and recently we have increased the quota for the export of silk waste. Now we have decided so far to export 2·25 lakh lbs. this year and we are examining as to how much more we can safely allow for export.

Shrimati Khongmen: In view of the fact that Assam produces some of the best varieties of silk in the country, will Government help in the establishment of these mills there?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I have already said in my answer that there is a proposal to establish a spun silk mill in Assam with a capacity of 3,000 spindles. The Central Silk Board have accepted the proposal in principle and the Assam Government has already taken preliminary steps to establish it. In fact, they have invited an expert from Japan to come over and prepare a scheme for this, and the Government of India have also accepted in principle to contribute towards the capital outlay.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I know whether any Central assistance has been sought for by the South Indian Silk Mill at Gudiyattam which is now doramant for want of capital?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to have notice to answer the question.

Shri Nijalingappa: May I know whether it is a fact that nearly ten lakh lbs. of silk waste are lying with the merchants and they are clamouring for export?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I received a long letter from the hon. Member about this matter. About the figure of ten lakh lbs. I am not quite sure. Government is examining the factual position. My information is about six to seven lakh lbs are in stock. We have now written to the various State Governments concerned to give us the firm figures of the stock they have. After receiving the information, we shall decide as to what to do about it.

Shri B. S. Murthy: Is the expert who is coming from Japan an expert in establishing the mill or in silk in general? If he is an expert in sericulture, may I know whether he will be made to tour all over India for improving sericulture?

Shri K. C. Reddy: The information we have is that the Assam Government have invited this expert to advise them on the establishment of a spun silk factory in Assam. He has not been invited for general purposes.

Shri S. C. Samanta: The hon Minister said that the Central Silk Board have recommended the opening of this mill. May I know what steps have been taken by the Board for the consumption of this silk waste in the areas where silk is produced?

Shri K. C. Reddy: I think I have already stated that the Central Silk Board have agreed to the establishment of a spun

silk mill in Assam and that in regrd to West Bengal. Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir, the proposals are under the consideration of the Board. They have called for certain particulars from the States and they have not come to any definite decision. Meanwhile, we are utilising the production as much as possible in our own country and exporting the balance to other countries.

भाखड़ा नंगल परियोजना

*१४९३. **श्री भागवत झा आज़ाद** : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भाखड़ा के तथा साथ ही नंगल के दूसरे बिजली घर से अनुमानत: कितनी बिजली का संभरण किया जायेगा ; और

(ख) भाखड़ा के इस दूसरे बिजली घर के चालू होने पर क्या प्रति यूनिट बिजली की दर में कोई कमी हो सकेगी ।

सिंचाई और विद्युत उपमंत्री (श्री हाथी) : (क) विवरण सभा पटल पर रख दिया गया है। [देखिये परिशिष्ट ६, अनुबन्ध सं० ६]

(ख) जी, नहीं ।

श्री भागवत झा आज़ाद : कोटला बिजली घर में प्रस्तावित तीसरे यंत्र को लगाने के सम्बन्ध में क्या किसी समय का निर्धारण किया गया है या नहीं ?

श्री हाथी : लगाया जायेगा लेकिन कोई समय निर्धारित नहीं किया गया है ।

श्री भागवत झा आज़ाद : भाखड़ा में जो चौथा यंत्र लगने वाला है, उसके सम्बन्ध में क्या कोई फैसला हो गया है ?

श्री हाथी : पहले पावर हाउस के लिये चौथे की बात नहीं है, अब तो दूसरे पावर हाउस की बात है ।

श्री भागवत झा आज़ाद : उसके सम्बन्ध में क्या कोई फैसला हो चुका है ?

श्री हाथी : उसके बारे में अभी तक कोई फैसला नहीं हुआ है ।

Shri Kasliwal : What is the total quantity of power which the power houses at Bhakra-Nangal are at present supplying to Delhi and what will be the ultimate target for the supply of power to Delhi from them?

Shri Hathi: The present generating capacity of the four power houses is 4 units of 24000 K. W. each, that means generating capacity of 96,000 K.W. and Delhi is being supplied 10,000 k.w. now and 10,000 we shall be having within a week or so.

Shri D. C. Sharma : May I know if it has been decided to allot some part of this power for agricultural and industrial purposes and if so, what is the total allotment for this?

Shri Hathi : As such, no total allotment for any particular industry or agriculture is made but the rates and the tariffs are kept different. It is less for agriculture.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad : May I know whether any assessment has been made regarding the demand for power in relation to the present supply and whether the construction of the fifth unit will in any way help to ease the demand?

Shri Hathi : The load survey at present would justify the four units at Bhakra and the present units at the two power houses at Nangal. Later on, if the load develops, naturally the second power house will be added.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: May I know whether there is any possibility of Western U. P. getting power generated from Bhakra and if so, when?

Shri Hathi: In fact, the Punjab Government had asked the U. P. Government whether they would like to have any power from the Bhakra project. They said the Rihand was coming up and perhaps they might not require any additional power.

Salt for Cattle-lick

*1494. **Shri Jhulan Sinha:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state the present position with regard to the proposal regarding manufacture of salt for purposes of cattle-lick?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): The proposal is under examination of Government.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: May I know whether, while examining these proposals, any assessment has been made as to the quantity of salt consumable by human beings that would be saved by the implementation of these proposals?

Shri R. G. Dubey: I could not quite follow.

Mr. Speaker: What is the total quantity of salt that might be utilised here which if provided for other wise, would be saved from the salt that is consumed by human beings?

Shri R. G. Dubey: It is a very difficult question.

Mr. Speaker: It is a very general question.

Shri R. G. Dubey: However, for the information of the hon. Member I may say that in Western India only the question of the use of cattle-lick arises, and in that portion the demand is calculated round about two lakh maunds per annum.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: May I put one question?

Mr. Speaker: I thought we might pass on. We have got a number of questions.

Shri Kamath: 1498 may be disposed of along with this.

Mr. Speaker: Very well. Sardar Iqbal Singh. He is not here. I will come to 1498 later then.

Technical Survey Team to Cambodia

*1496. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Technical Survey Team which was sent to Cambodia to assess the requirements of technical assistance from India has completed the work; and

(b) if so whether any report has been submitted?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes. A copy of the report is placed on the Table of the House. [*Placed in the Library. See* Library No. S-363/56]

Shri Krishnacharya Joshi: May I know if the Government o Cambodia have asked the Government of India to give any specific assistance?

Shri Sadath Ali Khan: They have made request for some specific assistance also.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether the recommendations of the survey committee have been considered by Government, and if so, which of the recommendations have been accepted?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): It is for the Government of Cambodia to consider these recommendations, not for the Government of India. As for the question of assistance, the only type of assistance that we have told them we can give is technical assistance, not financial assistance in any large quantity but technician we are prepared to send, and in certain other directions also — to train their men or to send our trained men.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know whether the expenses of the survey team will be borne by our Government or the Cambodian Government?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not sure about this matter.

Mr. Speaker: It is assistance. Is it free?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I am not quite sure who paid for the expenses of this team that went. That is what the hon. Member requires?

Mr. Speaker: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There were two or three teams there. One, I think, was sent on behalf of some United Nations, agency of which also an Indian, an engineer was Chairman. The expenses of that, of course, were borne by the United Nations or that agency rather. About the others I am not sure.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether this assistance is under the Colombo Plan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not think that Cambodia comes under the Colombo Plan. Therefore, it is a bilateral arrangement.

Cycle Tyres

*1497. **Shri Jaipal Singh :** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state;

(a) the wholesale and retail prices of cycle tyres;

(b) the number of cycle tyres imported annually and the number manufactured in India; and

(c) the steps taken to meet the country's requirements through the Indian manufacturers?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): (a) The approved prices of indigenous cycle tyres are.

Wholesale price (DUNLOP BATES) Rs. 3-15-0 each.

Retail price. Rs. 4-6-0 each.

(b) Imported in 1955—13,952 Numbers Manufactured in 1955—5,748,100 Numbers.

(c) Schemes for expansion of capacity to the desired level have already been licensed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act. Some imports have also been arranged.

Shri Jaipal Singh : May I know whether the cycles imported come complete with tyres or without tyres?

Shri Kanungo : In the earlier stage cycles were not allowed to be imported with tyres. Now we have allowed them to be imported with tyres.

श्री चट्टोपाध्याय : क्या यह सच है कि मेसर्ज डनलप रबर कम्पनी इण्डिया लिमिटेड को साइकिलों के टायरों और ट्यूबों की सम्पूर्ण मानोपली (एकाधिकार) दी गई है ? अगर यह सच है तो इसका क्या कारण है ?

श्री कानूनगो : मानोपली नहीं दी गई है। इस समय सात फैक्टरियां काम कर रही हैं। डनलप वालों को थोड़े टायर और ट्यूब इसलिये इम्पोर्ट (आयात) करने दिया गया है, क्योंकि वे उनको सस्ता ला सकते हैं।

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : A few days back the hon. Minister stated that Dunlops have been given import licences for tyres and tubes to create a pool so that the price may be brought down. May I know how much the price has come down after creation of this pool?

Shri Kanungo : That happened two months back and only very little import has arrived. I hope that within a few weeks the prices will be lowered down.

Shri Jaipal Singh : May I know whether the hon. Minister is in a position to tell us if there has been any progressive trend in the import of lady's and children's bicycles?

Shri Kanungo : I am not aware of it.

Shri Kelappan : May I know from which countries we are importing tyres?

Shri Kanungo : At present we are importing from U. K.

Shri Kelappan : Is it not a fact that it is cheaper in Japan and Germany?

Shri Kanungo : No. We do not think so.

Shri Kasliwal : May I know what is the percentage of demand for these cycle tyres which the Indian manufacturers are meeting at present?

Shri Kanungo : At present our demands are not being fully met by Indian manufacturers. By 1960 the anticipated demand is expected to be somewhere round 12 to 13 million pieces. At present the production is somewhere round about 6,50,000 pieces. The schemes which have been licensed will go into production in the course of next year.

Shri S. V. Ramaswamy : Regarding the question of import of these tyres the answer given was the monopoly is given to Dunlops, a foreign firm, in order to bring down the pool price. May we know whether the same result could not be achieved if we do not give it to a foreign firm and give it only to an Indian firm?

Shri Kanungo : Under the existing circumstances, it is not possible to import that quantity of tyres at that price from any other source than the parent firm of Dunlops in U. K.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha : Will the increase in import quota of Dunlop after they have been given big import licences, how many indigenous importers of bi-cycles have gone out of the market and how many licences have been cancelled ?

Shri Kanungo : None were cancelled because there were none.

Synthetic Rubber Factory

***1498. Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up any factory for the manufacture of synthetic rubber from molasses;

(b) if so, when and where this factory is going to be set up; and

(c) the estimated cost of setting up the factory?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah) : (a) to (c). Synthetic rubber cannot be made from molasses although alcohol produced from molasses could be one of the alternative raw materials for the manufacture of butadiene, which on copolymerisation with styrene would yield-synthetic rubber. The question of manufacture of synthetic rubber based on poossible resources in India for butadiene and styrene is under examination. A team of foreign experts is at present in the country for preparing a project report on the economics of a possible project.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh : May I know whether any survey has been made of the sugar-producing areas in the country for establishing such factories and, if so, what is the outcome of that survey?

Shri M. M. Shah : A general survey of the production capacity of power alcohol in the country has been conducted and from U. P. comes nearly 70 to 80 per cent of the national production on power alcohol, that is, out of the 17 millionugallons per annum it produces 10 to 12 million gallons.

Shri A. M. Thomas : It is reported in the papers that the hon. Minister, Shri Kanungo, has stated that it may not be possible for natural rubber to stand competition with synthetic rubber. Is there any basis for that report and, if so, may I know on what basis that statement has been made? May I also know how the quality of the natural rubber compared with that of synthetic rubber?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo) : That is one of those statements which have been made after looking into the future of synthetic rubber etc. and progress of science.

Shri Punnoose : The hon. Minister referred to molasses for the manufacture of synthetic rubber. May I know whether the Government intend starting a synthetic rubber factory and, if so, what is the estimated cost of that?

Shri M. M. Shah : As I have already indicated, the proposal is being seriously considered. The cost of that factory may, in very general terms, come to about Rs. 12·5 crores and the cost of production of synthetic rubber from the present estimates will be about three annas cheaper than the natural rubber per lb.

Shri Velayudhan : May I know whether the Government have investigated the possibility of producing enough natural rubber for consumption in India as well as for export purposes and is it after that that the proposal for importing from some other sources has been taken up ?

Shri M. M. Shah : Firstly, synthetic rubber is not at all foreign. It is merely a scientific process of copolymerisation with styrene of butadiene. Secondly, regarding natural rubber, the Government is trying its best to increase the plantations of natural rubber in the country. There are schemes in the Second Five Year Plan for the development of rubber plantations. For the last four years also, from the present indications, the acreage has gone up from 1,31,000 acres to 1,68,000 acres. In the future, we expect, the present production of 21,000 tons per annum will go up to 32,000 to 35,000 tons per annum.

Shri Achuthan : May I know whether the Government have assessed the requirements of rubber, both natural rubber and synthetic rubber, during the Second Five Year Plan and what is the quantity which will be allotted to synthetic rubber?

Shri M. M. Shah : Yes Sir. We have assessed the requirements. Our requirements are anticipated to be 50,000 tons in 1960, out of which 32 to 35 thousand tons will be met by natural rubber and 25,000 tons by synthetic rubber.

Shrimati Kamlendumati Shah : May I know how the price of natural rubber compares with that of synthetic rubber and whether the Government contemplate opening of synthetic rubber factory near the sugar mill in Dehradun?

Mr. Speaker : The Minister has answered both the questions.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the rubber industry will be consulted before coming to a final decision with regard to the establishment of the synthetic rubber factory?

Shri M. M. Shah: If the hon. Member means those who are utilising rubber for production, certainly we have taken into consideration the requirements of the entire rubber manufacturing industry.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: In view of the reply given by the hon. Minister that in the next Five Year Plan we are going to increase the acreage under rubber plantations in India, what is the necessity for seriously thinking in terms of synthetic rubber manufacture in the country if we can produce enough natural rubber?

Shri M. M. Shah : The hon. Member knows that it is very difficult to produce natural rubber in such large quantity in such a short time as the country requires; and rubber being an essential item for different developments of industries in different directions, it has become very necessary to augment the supply by the manufacture of synthetic rubbers over and above the development plans, which are themselves very intensive, in the field of natural rubber.

Migration of Harijans from Pakistan to India

*1499. **Shri Gidwani**: Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to news item published in the *Times of India*, Delhi Edition dated 17th July, 1956 to the effect that 138 Harijans living in the Lahore D.A.V. College wishing to return to India permanently were being refused migration certificates by the Pakistan Government on the ground that the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1950 envisaged only the movement of Hindus and Muslims from either side and not of Harijans; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any action in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The matter is being pursued with the Government of West Pakistan.

Shri Gidwani : May I know when the Pakistan Government were written to about this matter, and whether any reply has been received from them?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The hon. Member wants me to give the date. I think it was fairly recently. The Chief Minister of Western Pakistan appeared to think that this distinction between Harijans and Hindus was not a legitimate distinction. He said he would enquire into the matter. Since then, we have been pursuing this. But as the hon. Member must know, during these rather changing political conditions in Pakistan, some matters get rather held up.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I know whether the Prime Minister is aware that in Pakistan, all Harijans are put under the category of sweepers, and the Pakistan authorities consider sweepers as an emergency service, and therefore, on that plea, they are not permitting any Harijans to leave Pakistan?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I do not know whether they are all put in the category of sweepers. But it is true that they have all been put under some emergency category.

Shri Kamath: Essential services.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: Yes, under essential services. And thereby, obstructions are put in their coming away from there.

Shri B. S. Murthy: May I further enquire with regard to that category, what steps are being taken to see that all are not dubbed as coming under essential services, irrespective of whether they are essential or not?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: We cannot interfere in the internal descriptions of the Pakistan Government. Our chief point was that if any of them want to come to India, under our agreement with the Pakistan Government, they should be allowed to come, and not prevented from coming away because of some need of the Pakistan Government for their services.

Shri Kajrolkar: Are the terms of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of 1950 so vague as to give room for the interpretation that Harijans are not Hindus, and if so, could Government not revise the agreement?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: It is not a question of vagueness. It never struck us at the time, that Harijans should be specifically mentioned; we thought it was obvious that they came under that term.

As for the question of revision of the agreement, the point is to decide this matter, and not take up the whole agreement and discuss it, perhaps rather indefinitely.

Shri Jangde: Is it not a fact that there are about three lakhs of Harijans settled there, and they wanted to come to India, but they have been forced by the Pakistan Government not to come here, for the last three or four years?

Mr. Speaker: The same question has been answered already.

Records of Netaji's Speeches

*1500. **Shri Kamath:** Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the records of the war-time speeches of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were preserved by Radio Tokyo;

(b) if so, till when;

(c) where the records are at present;

(d) whether Government have made any attempt to obtain those records; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) to (e). Efforts have been made many times and enquiries carried out to see whether any recordings or films of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were available. The Broadcasting Corporation of Japan have informed us that they have destroyed all their pre-war records, more particularly those pertaining to the period 1938-1945. So none is existing. Recently, the Government of Japan have presented to the Enquiry Committee which visited Tokyo a film of four minutes duration, containing a speech by Shri Subhas Chandra Bose to the INA. Arrangements are being made to record separately the speech as it is on the film and which is of hardly more than one minute's duration. This will be preserved in the All India Radio archives.

All India Radio is separately trying to find out whether there are any other records, small or big, of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's speeches.

Shri Kamath: Has the Minister casually glanced at the pages of a book—tried to follow the advice you gave yesterday, I tried to get copy of the book, but the only copy in the library, and it has been loaned out, and it is not in the library now; my own copy of this book is in Nagpur—entitled *India Afire* by two American authors, namely Clare and Harris Wofford, wherein they have

wherein they have made a statement that certain records of the speeches of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which were in Tokyo, were removed to China soon after the war? If so, may I know whether Government have made any enquiry into this matter, or propose to make an enquiry into this matter as to whether these records were removed from Tokyo to China after the war?

Dr. Keskar: The time-lag is so great that unless we have got some definite substance, it will be difficult to find out, but we will certainly make enquiries, as to whether any records have been moved. But unless we get some valid ground for considering that such records have been moved, it would not be worthwhile pursuing the matter?

Shri Kamath : I heard the Minister say that Government would further pursue the matter or enquire into the matter. But later on, he seems to have changed his mind, and he said that it would not be worthwhile pursuing the matter. What exactly does he mean by this?

Dr. Keskar : What I said was that after making enquiries, if we do not get any valid ground for pursuing it further we shall not do so. It is not possible on the basis of what two American authors have written, to carry out an enquiry costing a lot of money.

Shri Kamath: The Minister, answering a question in the last session said that two discs containing Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose's speeches in English and Bengali were said to be available with one of Netaji's relatives, and that negotiations were being held for borrowing those records for purposes of dubbing. Have these attempts been successful or not? Have the records arrived here, and are they being dubbed and processed for preservation.

Dr. Keskar : The two discs about which I spoke will soon be coming here. When they come, I shall be able to inform the hon. Member as to what is there in those records.

We have had also one other information, namely, that there is a gentleman in Germany who has got a film in which there is a speech by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. It might be that the film is the same as the one of which a copy has been given to us by the Japanese Government. But, of course, we are not sure.

Shri Chattopadhyaya : May I know whether any information has been received with regard to the speeches made by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in Berlin, and if so, whether they have been recorded, and if they have been recorded, whether any attempt has been made to bring those records to India?

Dr. Keskar : As I said, we have enquired from many sources, and we have not been able to come across any such records except those of which mention has been made just now.

Synthetic Fertiliser

***1502. Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have sent an officer to foreign countries to study the latest developments of synthetic fertilisers;

(b) if so, the designation of the officer and method of his selection; and

(c) the period for which he would study and whether Government have given any direction to study any special thing?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) He is the Superintendent Engineer (Chemical), who is the Senior Chemical Engineer of the Neyveli Project and responsible for the technical aspects of planning and construction of the Neyveli Fertiliser Plant.

He was earlier the Plant Manager of the Sindri Fertiliser Company; he was then selected by the Company as being specially suitable for a study of new developments in the field of fertilisers and sponsored for training under the U.S. Government's Technical Cooperation Aid Programme, as an officer who would be required for a responsible part in connection with new factories to be established. He had been appointed Chemical Engineer of the Neyveli Project by the time the Technical Cooperation Mission authorities accepted the proposal and were in a position to arrange his training. Having reviewed all the circumstances Government decided that the facilities offered should be availed of and this officer should proceed on study tour.

(c) He will remain in the U.S.A. for three months and his study programme will cover the new developments in the field of Urea Production, the technique of large scale production of oxygen by the American processes, the recent developments in the field of gas purification by liquid nitrogen wash and various other processes. Improvements and cost reduction techniques in conventional processes, and a study of the nitrogen fertilizer plants built by two American specialist firms will also form a part of his study programme.

Government have directed him to spend about a month in Germany, on his way back, for a study of the various processes

in use there with particular reference to production techniques based on the gasification of lignite.

श्री विभूति मिश्र : यह जो अफसर बाहर विदेशों में स्टडी करने के हेतू भेजे गये हैं तो जब वे बाहर से अनुभव प्राप्त करके यहां पर लौटेंगे तो यहां जो अभी फर्टिलाइजर्स बनते हैं उनकी क्वालिटी में और उनकी कीमतों में उनके अध्ययन से कितना लाभ होगा, क्या इस बात का अंदाजा सरकार ने लगाया है ?

श्री रा० गि० बूबे : जैसा कि मैंने अपने जवाब में अभी पढ़कर बताया, कौस्ट आफ प्रोडक्शन में कमी करना, यह एक दृष्टि भी है और में समझता हूं कि जब वह अफसर शिक्षा और अनुभव प्राप्त करके यहां लौटेंगे तो वे इस चीज पर ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से रोशनी डाल सकेंगे ।

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: The hon. Minister has stated that it is assumed that the cost of production of fertiliser will be lowered down after the expert returns, planning is done according to his recommendations. May I know how this scheme will fit into the existing fertiliser factories and the cost of production in those factories?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): It will be our constant endeavour to adopt such processes and to investigate new processes as would enable us to bring down the price of fertiliser. What the cost of production in our fertiliser factories will be now and what it will be in the new fertiliser factories will all be more or less estimates and it will not be possible to hazard a deliberate statement regarding this. But, by and large, I can say that as a result of the studies made by this expert and implementation of certain recommendations that he may make, it is expected that the cost of production of fertiliser will go down.

Dr. Rama Rao: May I know what is exactly the difference between synthetic fertiliser and the fertiliser that we have, for example, ammonium sulphate? I understand that from one of our steel plants which uses blast furnance we expect to utilise nitrogen for the manufacture of synthetic fertilisers. If so, how can one person be enough to look after a huge plant? Why not Government send a large number of people for necessary technical training?

Shri K. C. Reddy: My information is that what has been called synthetic fertiliser is the same as the chemical fertilisers to which we have been referring all along. I do not think there is any difference between synthetic fertilisers and chemical fertilisers.

With regard to the necessity of sending more people abroad, we are always on the lookout to see if there is any such necessity. When we see the need for it, we will send additional people abroad for training and study. But at present, we have felt no need of that kind and we have sent only one person for the purpose.

विकास परिषदें

*१५०७. **श्री खू० चं० सोधिया** : क्या वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे :

(क) किन-किन उद्योगों मे विकास परिषदें काम कर रही हैं और वे किन-किन तारीखों को गठित हुई थीं ;

(ख) विकास परिषदों को जो काम सौंपे गये थे, उन्हें पूरा करने के लिए प्रत्येक परिषद को १९५५-५६ में कितनी-कितनी रकम दी गई थी; और

(ग) इसी अवधि में सम्बन्धित उद्योगों द्वारा इन परिषदों को यदि कोई आर्थिक सहायता दी गई हो, तो वह कितनी है ?

भारी उद्योग मंत्री श्री म० म० शाह): (क) एक विवरण सदन की मेज पर उपस्थित किया जाता है जिस में यह जानकारी दी गई है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट ९, अनुबन्ध सं० १०]

(ख) किसी विकास परिषद को कोई धन नहीं दिया जाता लेकिन इन परिषदों के कुछ प्रशासकीय खर्च फिलहाल केन्द्रीय राजस्व से किये जाते हैं ।

(ग) कुछ नहीं दी गई ।

Shri B. S. Murthy: The answer may be read in English also:

Mr. Speaker : Yes.

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) A statement giving the information is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 10].

(b) No funds are placed at the disposal of any Development Council but certain administrative expenses relating to these Councils are currently met from the Central Revenues.

(c) Nil.

Shri K. C. Sodhia: Is it intended that some part of the expenses of these Councils should be realised from the industries concerned?

Shri M. M. Shah: At different stages, the matter has been discussed and sometimes levy of some cesses was being considered. But later on, it was found that it would not be wise to tie up the small expenditure on the Development Councils with any programme of cess.

Sea Erosion in Travancore-Cochin

*1508. **Shri A. M. Thomas:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) the provision for anti-sea erosion works in Travancore-Cochin—

(i) for the Second Five Year Plan;

(ii) for the financial year 1956-57; and

(b) the amount so far spent in the anti-sea erosion works?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) (i) Rs. 285 lakhs.

(ii) Rs. 28 lakhs.

(b) Rs. 9·61 lakhs during the First Five Year Plan and Rs. 0·24 lakhs during the current year.

Shri A. M. Thomas: In view of the serious size of the problem in that particular State, resulting in loss of rich and valuable land, may I enquire whether any comprehensive scheme has been prepared to cope with the disastrous consequences of this erosion?

Shri Hathi: Yes. Surveys are being made. But it is not possible, looking into the cost of construction, to construct a sea wall on the whole cost. But experiments carried on at the Poona Research Station show that groynes 200 ft. long at intervals of 600 ft. might serve the purpose. Surveys are being made with regard to this. Though it will not be possible to have sea-walls parallel to the whole coast, this (groynes) may be possible.

Shri A. M. Thomas: Has Government got in its possession any estimate of the annual loss that is being incurred? Also what exactly would be the cost of walling up and whether it would be worthwhile?

Shri Hathi: We have not got the correct estimate as to the total damage caused by this, but there are three districts which are mostly affected.

Shri Velayudhan: May I know what anti-sea erosion work is done near the Cochin Harbour? How much amount is spent for this particular port on this account, and has this work been effective at all?

Shri Hathi: A sum of Rs. 11 lakhs was provided. Nearly Rs. 9 lakhs have been spent. Actually, the work that was undertaken was the construction of groynes at several places. This has benefited the area concerned.

Shri Punnoose: May I know the places where sea erosion has become a serious menace and the places where anti-erosion work has now been undertaken?

Shri Hathi: I have got the list of the places in the three districts which are affected or are subject to sea erosion. I can give the hon. Member the names of these places. I shall also give him the number of schemes and the places where the work has been done.

Shri Achuthan: Since the hon. Minister has already visited the place and realised the seriousness and magnitude of the problem, has the Ministry got any scheme, in conjunction with the Education Ministry, to send an engineer from Travancore-Cochin to America for training in this work? What is the objection in taking up this scheme and sending the engineer concerned this year itself so that we may have him back trained before we spend Rs. 3 crores on this scheme?

Shri Hathi: That is a suggestion. I think the hon. Member mentioned it to me only two days back. I am taking it up with the Education Ministry. Whatever is possible will be done. If it is possible to have any training scheme, the Irrigation Ministry will do it.

Shri A. M. Thomas: There was a proposal sometime ago by the Travancore-Cochin Government that this problem must be treated on an equal footing with anti-flood measures. Has the Central Government considered that proposal?

Shri Hathi: The Central Government has actually considered this proposal. We sent a team of officers to investigate. From the data collected, research is being carried on at the Poona Research Station. We are trying to do all that is possible.

World Bank Mission's Comments on Second Plan

*1509. **Shri Matthen:** Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state the reaction of the Planning Commission to the comments recently made by the World Bank Mission on the Second Five Year Plan?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): Mostly the comments made by the World Bank Mission are of a kind with which the Commission has not been unfamiliar. These comments

are important and will naturally have to be kept in mind while implementing the Plan.

Shri Matthen: They say that they are deeply concerned about the transport situation and they suggest maximising the transport by available means, by rail, road, coastal shipping and inland waterway. They consider it important that the structure and level of railway rates should be revised promptly so as to provide more incentive for the utilisation of other means of transport. What do the Commission think about it and what are they going to do about it?

Shri S. N. Mishra: All these are points of detail, and naturally they will have to be examined in the Division concerned for the purpose of seeing to what extent they can be put into effect in the process of implementation.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know how far it is true to say that these comments are tendentious in the sense that they deliberately go out of their way to support the position of foreign capital in the country and private enterprise?

Shri S. N. Mishra: It would not be proper to impute any such motives to these comments. They are indeed very valuable and useful.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: The World Bank Mission has recommended to give more concessions to the private industry and has also recommended to impose more taxes on agriculturists in the form of land and water rates, etc. May I know whether the Planning Commission shares that view and whether it is going to recommend imposition of more taxes on the agriculturists to give concessions to the private industrialists?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): The Planning Commission does not impose any taxes on anybody.

Shrimati Tarkeshwari Sinha: In view of the fact that the World Bank Mission has said that the targets fixed under the Second Five Year Plan are too ambitious and have expressed doubts if the financial resources will be available to fulfil those targets, may I know whether Government intend to revise the targets of the allocations in the Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: We have stated in the Plan that it requires very big effort, financial and organisational, on the part of the Government and all sections of the community. So it is also not a comment with which we have been unfamiliar.

Shri Punnoose: May I know whether the Planning Commission have discussed with the World Bank Mission and whether there was agreement between the Commission and the Mission with regard to the Social and economic objectives of our Plan?

Shri S. N. Mishra: I do not quite follow the import of the question.

Mr. Speaker: Has there been any understanding between the Commission and the Mission regarding the social and economic objectives of the Plan?

Shri Punnoose: The question is raised whether their recommendations will be accepted. I want to know whether there was agreement with regard to the social and economic objectives of our Plan.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: There is no question of agreement between them and us. Probably in regard to some matters at least, there is a lack of agreement. We have made a Plan; we do not ask other people to agree to our social objectives; it is for us to determine. We may discuss the financial and other consequences with them, and it is open to them as it is open to many others to express their views about our Plan. We welcome criticisms; we welcome the different aspects being discussed. In fact, quite apart from the World Bank's view, we have received comments, criticisms, praise or lack of praise from many countries about it. We welcome all of it, so that we may be able to consider how far it is useful.

Indian Foreign Service Probationers

*1512. **Shri Brajeshwar Prasad:** Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state the names of the foreign universities to which the Indian Foreign Service Probationers are sent for training?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): Indian Foreign Service probationers are usually sent to Oxford or Cambridge in the United Kingdom, but if a probationer has already studied there arrangements are made to send him to some other University abroad.

Shri Brajeshwar Prasad: May I know why the Government has deemed it necessary to send our probationers to foreign countries for training?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): We consider it very necessary, in fact, essential for them to go to some foreign countries to get a broader outlook, to get a better knowledge

of languages and many other factors, which in fact is to supplement the training they have got here; maybe the training we give is supplemented by this.

Coal Distribution

*1513. **Shri K. P. Tripathi:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the tea industry is being made to purchase low quality coal at high prices in Assam; and

(b) whether Government are considering any proposal for fixing a standard distribution price for coal meant for tea industry on the basis of any area or region or generally?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Production (Shri R. G. Dubey): (a) In pursuance of the policy of zonal distribution of coal, supplies for tea industry in Assam as well as for other consumers in the state are normally arranged from the collieries in Assam.

Assam coal has an ash content not exceeding 10% and compares favourably with the Bengal/Bihar coal and as such is not of low quality. The prices which the tea industry are required to pay for this coal are not higher than those paid by other industries in Assam.

(b) There is no such proposal.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: May I know if it is a fact that there are two types of coal in Assam, one in the Khasi Hills which is of low quality and the other in the East which is of better quality, and that the price of the Khasi Hills coal is far higher than that of the other coal? If so, how is the price determined with regard to the tea industry?

Shri R. G. Dubey: In Assam there are two sources from where coal is procured—Khasi Mines and the Assam Collieries. The actual position, I think, is that that the price of coal procured from the Khasi Mines somewhat compares favourably with the coal produced in Bihar and Bengal.

Shri K. P. Tripathi: My question is about the prices of each type of coal, and that question is not answered yet. I want to know the prices of the different qualities of coal.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister may lay a statement regarding the coal prices on the Table.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): The prices of coal are fixed region-wise and not industry-wise. No special price for tea industry or for jute industry or some other industry is fixed. The hon. Member has referred to a price being fixed for the tea industry, but I say that prices are not fixed on that basis. So far as Assam is concerned, prices are fixed for various collieries. About 12 different prices are fixed for Assam Railway and Trading Company, Margharita Collieries, etc. etc. Different prices are fixed for different collieries. To this we have to add the transportation and other charges. All these put together, the price at which the tea gardens obtain the coal may be higher than the price at which other people get in Bihar and Bengal region. It is not because of the prices only that there is this difference. Therefore, Government is considering the question of equalising the freight incidence and making available the coal in various regions at about the same price. The Estimates Committee has also recommended to that effect. Government is considering that aspect, and if we accept that policy and equalise the freight, then it may be possible for the various regions to get coal at about uniform prices.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: I would like to know specifically the difference in the ruling prices in the Assam tea gardens and those in the Dhanbad area for the same quality of coal. There are two qualities in Assam; I would like to know how they differ.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I would like to give a fairly detailed answer. As I said already, the prices vary from colliery to colliery and from region to region. To this we have to add the transportation charges which again vary from place to place depending on the points of destination. What exactly the hon. Member has in mind I do now know. The quality of coal that is supplied to the tea gardens is not by and large inferior to the coal supplied to Bihar and Bengal industries.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: By what percentage do the prices differ?

Shri K. C. Reddy: It is a matter of arithmetical calculation. I will have to work out the figure.

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao: May I know when the decision regarding the charging of a uniform price for coal at rail heads will be taken? The Estimates Committee has made this recommendation a year ago.

Shri K. C. Reddy: I do not think that the Estimates Committee made this recommendation a year ago. Perhaps it discussed it in the meeting about a year ago but the point of time at which it came to the Government was not at that time. I know definitely that the time is less than a year. The whole matter is receiving our very close examination. It is a complicated matter and it requires a lot of consultations with other Ministries also. I can assure the hon. Member that we are actively

examining that question and we are ourselves very anxious to see that this is implemented.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER

Floods in Godavary and Krishna Rivers

S. Q. No. 15. Dr. Rama Rao : Will the **Minister of Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Godavary and the Krishna rivers have been in spate ;

(b) the number of acres of land inundated and the amount of crops destroyed ;

(c) the number of villages submerged and the cattle lost ;

(d) the assistance rendered or proposed to be given to the State Government for relief purposes ;

(e) the extent to which the project work of the 'Budameru flood control scheme' has been affected by these floods ; and

(f) the steps taken to stop further inundation ?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) to (f). A statement giving the requisite information is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 11].

Shri Hathi : The statement runs to two pages. If the Chair so directs, I shall read it.

Mr. Speaker : The hon. Members will study it and then put supplementary questions later on if they want. It need not be read here now.

Dr. Rama Rao : Only three years ago, we had very devastating floods in Godavari and afterwards there was some bund construction. Just now, we are having floods of almost the same devastating level. Does the Government contemplate any flood control projects instead of just adding some earth to the bund ?

Shri Hathi : The present flood control works relate to the Budameru basin and the three kinds of works are mentioned here.

Dr. Rama Rao : Has it come to the notice of the Government that, in connection with the Budameru flood control scheme, certain landlords are sabotaging the project for a reservoir because their lands are going to be submerged ?

Shri Hathi : Some hon. Members of this House and the other House did meet me and they mentioned that this had been the feeling among certain people in Andhra. At the suggestion of the Members, we deputed a special officer to have an on-the-spot study of the Budameru basin to assess the damages and also to see why actually the work was being withheld. I also wrote to the Deputy Chief Minister. We have received a reply that it was not because the lands of any influential person were being submerged there was some delay, but because they were having a comprehensive scheme for the Collaire lake also. The officer has just returned on the 18th and is preparing his report. After the report is considered by the Government, I shall as we generally do meet the Members of a Parliament. Within a week we shall discuss the whole question.

Dr. Rama Rao : He did not answer the first part.

Mr. Speaker : Some things are not answered.

Shri B. S. Murthy : May I know whether it is a fact that the Andhra State has already submitted schemes of flood protection as far as Godavary and Krishna are concerned and that they have been unduly held up here for a long time ?

Shri Hathi : I do not think that any scheme of flood protection works has been unduly held up here.

Shri Raghuramaiah : Considering the very great agitation in some parts of Andhra due to a feeling in some quarters that the Budameru scheme was sanctioned but subsequently delayed for one reason or another, what is the exact position ? Has it been recommended by the State Government and has it been approved by the Central Government or is there any reconsideration ?

Shri Hathi : The scheme was proposed by the State Government. It was technically approved and sanctioned by the Government of India. But the scheme was not taken up and, as I said, some hon. Members showed anxiety over that scheme. We, therefore, deputed an officer and he has made an on-the-spot study in consultation with the officers of the State Government. The State Government is considering an overall scheme which would also help to reduce the submersion of the Collaire lake. This scheme is being considered. The officer has returned on the 18th and on receipt of his report, we shall be able to see the exact position.

Shri Raghuramaiah : In view of what the hon. Minister has said and also in view of the importance attached to this scheme, are we in a position to have an assurance from him that nothing will be done to have this matter delayed a moment longer than necessary and that every effort will be made to expedite this ?

Shri Hathi : We shall take all possible measures to speed up this scheme. The hon. Members mentioned this to me on the 11th and the officer was sent immediately ; he has returned on the 18th. It is a technical matter and it has to be technically examined.

Dr. Rama Rao : I asked about flood control schemes on the Godavari river. Has Government any plan to include some projects so that they will be an effective flood controlling measure on Godavary ?

Shri Hathi : Generally, the flood control works are proposed by the State Governments. So, the proposals must come from them.

RE : STATEMENTS LAID ON THE TABLE IN REPLY TO SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Shri Kamath : On a point of order. When the answer to short notice questions is in the form of a statement laid on the Table, copies of the statement should be made available in the Notice Office for reference by Members who are interested. You have directed that copies of such statements in answers to starred questions should be made immediately available in the Notice Office. I suggest that a suitable direction may be given by you regarding short notice questions also.

Mr. Speaker : I shall try to have them placed in the Notice Office as soon as the reply comes. But, it appears that in regard to short notice questions, on account of the short notice, Government is gathering material until the last minute when the Ministers make the statement or reply in the House. Ministers must have the liberty to correct them if they so desire, lest they should be charged with making incorrect statements. Therefore, in between, they bring the answer up to date. We will try to steer clear, and try to make these statements available as early as possible.

Shri Kamath : This is done in the case of starred questions.

Mr. Speaker : That is a different matter. As I said, I shall try to have such statements placed in the Notice Office as early as possible, so as to enable hon. Members to read them and come ready with supplementaries

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WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Synthetic Rubber Industry

*1495. **Sardar Iqbal Singh :** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the progress made regarding the establishment of the Synthetic Rubber Industry in the country ?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): A team of foreign experts are now touring round the country to assess the availability of raw materials and the economics of production of synthetic rubber.

Vocational Training

*1501 **Shrimati Renu Chakravartty :** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of women getting vocational training in Titagarh Mahila Camp No. 2 ;

(b) the period for which the training has been going on and in what crafts ;

(c) the number of trainees who have become qualified ; and

(d) their average earning ?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) Ten women are at present being trained in silk reeling under a pilot scheme. Prior to this some women were trained in silk waste, spinning and cotton waste spinning.

(b) and (c) : Training in Silk waste spinning was given in four batches from March, 1954 to March 1955, the period of training for each batch being three months. Training in cotton spinning was started in December, 1955 and lasted for one month. Training in silk reeling was started on 31st March, 1956 and will be for a period of one year. 170 women were trained in silk waste spinning and 50 women in cotton spinning.

(d) The employment in these crafts is only part time to help these women to augment their income. Approximate earning per month is Rs. 7/- for silk waste spinning and Rs. 4/- for cotton spinning. The women who are being trained in silk reeling after the completion of their training are expected to earn Rs. 2/- to Rs. 3/- per day.

Work-Charged Staff of C.P.W.D.

*1503. **Shri Nambiar :** Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that rent from the work-charged staff of the Central Public Works Department is charged at the same rate as from other Central Government servants for accommodation provided to them.

(b) whether it is a fact that different types of quarters are allotted to central Government servants according to the scales of pay ;

(c) If so, whether the work-charged staff of the C. P. W. D. are also allotted accommodaton of different types according to their scales of pay ; and

(d) if not the reason therefor ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) Yes, Sir. They are charged rent on the same basis as other

Central Government servants, namely standard rent subject to a ceiling of 10 per cent of emoluments.

(b) and (c). Allotments are made to Regular Government servants according to the actual emoluments of the individual from time to time but in the case of work-charged staff a large majority of them are given only one room quarters whatever their emoluments.

(d) The reason for the work-charged staff being treated differently lies in the fact that they have a separate pool of accommodation and with a view to cater to the largest number possible. Constructions for this pool have been only 1 room quarters.

South Patel Nagar

*1504. **Shri Tek Chand** : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is fact that some houses in South Patel Nagar were constructed on the land area, which was very low, due to the existence of pools, and brick kilns thus necessitating the increase of the width and depth of foundations and thereby the cost ;

(b) if so, how many such houses were constructed in such areas ;

(c) whether house owners allotted houses with deeper foundations, were informed that they would have to pay excessive cost for such foundations, before actually giving them the possession thereof ;

(d) if so, whether copy of the same will be supplied ; and

(e) if not, the reasons why they were not so informed ?

The Deputy Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri J. K. Bhonsle) : (a) Yes.

(b) 36.

(c) to (e). It is not the practice to give specific information about the price in regard to each house. The understanding has all along been that the allottees could become the owners of their respective houses on payment of the actual costs, including the cost and development charge for the land. In the case of these houses the allottees had been informed that the deposit of Rs. 5,000/- that had been asked for, represented the approximate price of the house.

Tea Industries

*1505. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma**: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether any amount has been provided for the improvement of the industry in the Second Five Year Plan period ; and

(b) if so, the details of the scheme ?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) and (b). No specific amounts are provided in the Second Five Year Plan for development of the tea Industry but tea cess collections are passed on to the Tea Board every year for various activities including items for the improvement of the tea industry. The question of further assistance to the industry would depend on Government's consideration of the Report of the Plantation Inquiry Commission.

Second Five Year Plan

*1506. **Shri Madiah Gowda** : Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Second Five Year Plan has been published in any Indian languages;

(b) if so, in what languages and how many copies; and

(c) whether the plan publications are available for sale and if so, where?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S.N. Mishra): (a) and (b). The work of bringing out Hindi and Urdu translation of the Plan has been taken in hand by the Publications Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The State Governments have been requested by the Planning Commission to undertake the preparation of the Plan in other Indian languages. However, since that work is likely to take some time it has now been decided to concentrate immediately on the translation in all Indian languages of the official summary of the Plan and of an abbreviated summary which has been prepared by the Publications Division.

(c) Copies of the Second Five Year Plan and of the summary are available for sale with the Manager of Publications, Delhi, his agents in various parts of the country and also through the stalls of the Publications Division. The Publications Division have already sold in the aggregate more than one lakh copies of the following publications connected with the Second Five Year Plan brought out by them.

1. Second Five Year Plan—The framework.

2. Second Five Year Plan—Summary of the plan frame papers.

3. Second Five Year Plan.—Summary of the draft outline (English and Hindi).

4. Agriculture in the Second Five Year Plan.

Export Promotion Councils

*1510. **Shri M. Islamuddin** : Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the commodities for which Government propose to set up Export Promotion Councils during the year?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar): (*i*) Mica.

(*ii*) Shellac.

(*iii*) Leather and Leather goods, and

(*iv*) Sports goods.

Embankments on Kosi

*1511. **Shri L. N. Mishra** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state the area and population that have been protected from floods by the embankments that have been constructed on the two sides of river Kosi so far?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : Areas protected are:

Entire Purnea district;
four-fifths of Saharsa district; and
one-half of the Kosi affected area in Darbhanga district.

Population protected is about 15 lakhs.

Orphangunge Market, Kidderpur

*1514. **Shri A. K. Dutt** : Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Orphangunge Market at Kidderpur in Calcutta, is not properly managed and is kept in very insanitary condition;

(b) whether Government are also aware that the tenants and vendors of that market have submitted a representation against the Superintendent of that market; and

(c) if so what steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) On the contrary, Sir, I think, the market is being managed reasonably well and its sanitary conditions are as good as can be expected in a multi-purpose market of this nature.

(b) and (c). Such representations as have been received have been gone into and I cannot help feeling that they are prompted by the resentment felt by the tenants and vendors at the attempts made by the Superintendent to secure compliance with the rules.

Explosion at Noamandi

*1515. **Shri P. C. Bose** : Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 808 on the 7th August, 1956 and state:

(a) whether the report of enquiry into the cause of explosion in the Magazine of the Tata's Iron Ore Mine at Noamandi that took place on the 15th July, 1956, has been received by Government;

(b) the findings and recommendations of the report; and

(c) the action taken so far?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) No, Sir. Certain important witnesses are still in Hospital and cannot yet be examined. The enquiry is therefore not yet completed.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Giridih Collieries

*1516. **Shri T. B. Vittal Rao** : Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 2 on the 16th July, 1956 and state:

(a) the reasons for the delay in the finalisation of the examination of the report of the 'Experts Committee' appointed to go into the economic working of the Giridih collieries; and

(b) whether Government propose to lay a copy of the same on the Table of the Sabha?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) The report required detailed examination from the technical, financial and conservation aspects, involving decisions on important matters of policy. The examination of the report has since been finalised and the orders of Government have been issued.

(b) Copies of the report have been placed already in the Library of the Parliament. A summary of the recommendations and the decisions of the Government thereon is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 12].

Handlooms and Powerlooms

*1517. {**Shri Hem Raj** :
Shri Ram Krishan :

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) the number of handlooms and powerlooms working in the Punjab from 1952 to 1956 year-wise;

(b) the number of handloom co-operatives in Punjab during these years;

(c) the number of handlooms proposed to be converted into powerlooms during the Second Five Year Plan in Punjab;

(d) whether the Punjab Government have asked for any financial assistance from the Centre for this purpose; and

(e) if so, with what result?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 13].

Mysore Mine Owner

*1518. **Shri Keshavaiengar :**
Shri Wodeyar :

Will the inister of **Commerce and Industry** pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Mysore Mine owners are small scale industrialists and they sell their ore to exporters on F.O.R. basis ;

(b) whether the Ministry's circular dated the 27th July, 1956 prohibits allotment of movement quota and in consequence they cannot get registration slips for wagons; and

(c) whether Government will consider allotment of quota, both rail and export directly, irrespective of previous export performance failing which the whole industry will come to a stand still and thousands of labourers will become unemployed?

The Minister of Trade (Shri Karmarkar) : (a) Government have seen some representations to this effect.

(b) and (c). Shippers and mine-owners are granted quotas equal to 75% of their actual exports during July-December 1955/January-June 1956. Wagon allotments are made pro rata to the quota holders. The mine-owners who had not been exporting the ores directly in the past and have been selling on F.O.R. basis are free to continue to do so under the current policy.

Community Radio Sets

*1519. **Shri D. C. Sharma** : Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of money set apart for installing community radio sets in the villages of India during the Second Five Year Plan; and

(b) the basis on which it will be distributed among the States ?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) : (a) Rs. 75 lakhs.

(b) This sum is to be spent for giving a subsidy of 50% of the cost of receiver sets together with their accessories. The sets are to be installed generally in villages with a population of about 1000 and more within the coverage provided by All India Radio. The number and selection of villages is left to be worked out by the States on the above basis. Provision has been made in the 2nd Five Year Plan of the various States for the 50% of the price of the sets and their maintenance on the basis of the number of villages where they propose to instal community sets.

Rural Electrification

*1520. **Shri Jhulan Sinha** : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state whether the position with regard to the supply of line materials particularly supports and conductors in connection with the expansion of rural electrification programme of Government is easing to any appreciable extent at present?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : Not yet in all respects. A statement indicating the position is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 14].

Recruitment of Indian Personnel for Kuwait

*1522. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have given permission to the Director General, Telephone and Telegraph Department, Government of Kuwait to recruit in India the services of suitable Indian personnel for their telephone services; and

(b) if so, how many persons have so far been recruited and what are the conditions of their service?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : (a) and (b). The Kuwait Government have not approached the Government of India on the subject.

Demarcation of Boundaries

*1523. **Shri S.C. Samanta** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to refer to the replies to Starred Question No. 851 on 21st March, 1956 and state:

(a) whether joint survey work in the Patharia Forest Area has been completed; and

(b) if so, when the boundary pillars will be erected?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan) : (a) and (b). No, Sir.

Exchange of Films

*1524. **Sardar Iqbal Singh:**
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of **Information and Broadcasting** be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any arrangement between India and Poland for exchange of films between these two countries on the barter basis; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Films Division have an arrangement with Polish Government Newsreel organisation for exchange of newsreel items only; and

(b) Contents sheets of newsreels are exchanged for selection of items. The selected items are then exchanged free of charge for use in newsreels. Both sides to select number of items for use in their respective newsreels. Similar arrangements exist with Newsreel organisations of several other countries.

Central Pool of Engineers

*1525. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Irrigation abd Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far for the creation of a Central Pool of Engineers engaged in irrigation and power projects; and

(b) the time by which the Pool is expected to start working?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 15].

(b) Does not arise.

Nahan Foundry Ltd.

*1526. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far for improving the working and management of the Nahan Foundry; and

(b) whether there is a proposal to appoint a Committee to suggest measures for all round improvement in the Foundry?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) and (b): A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix [IX, annexure No. 16].

Compensation to Displaced Persons from West Pakistan

*1527. **Shri D. C. Sharma:** Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state the number of persons who have been paid compensation so far this year out of the claimants from West Pakistan who applied for the same during the period from the 1st of January, 1956 upto the 31st July, 1956?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): The last date for receiving applications for payment of Compensation to displaced persons from West Pakistan was 26-9-1955. Only those cases in which delays were condoned were entertained after that date. The number of such cases entertained after condonation of delay during the period from 1-1-1956 to 31-7-1956 was 7046. The number of persons paid compensation out of these applications is not known. The total number of claimants from West Pakistan paid compensation during the period from 1st January, 1956 to 31st July, 1956 is 34,281. In addition 13, 514 claimants who were paid interim compensation have also been paid their final instalment during this period. Besides, in 3,645 cases certificates of admissibility of compensation have been issued and in 4072 cases loans have been advanced against compensation.

Immovable Property

*1528. **Shri Krishnacharya Joshi:**
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Sardar Akarpuri:

Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Pakistan have agreed to a meeting of representatives of the two Governments to discuss the question of immovable property; and

(b) if not, the steps Government propose to take in the matter?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna): (a) and (b). The Pakistan Government have expressed the view that no useful purpose would be served by any fresh conference or discussions on the basis of settling the problem at Government level, adding that if there was any other proposal, a further meeting may be possible. In the opinion of the Government of India, settlement on Government to Government basis is the only practical and equitable solution of this vexed problem. We have accordingly again urged the Pakistan Government to agree to start negotiations to solve

this problem on the basis of a Government to Government settlement. No reply from the Pakistan Government has so far been received.

Misappropriation of Government Money

*1529. **Shri Jhulan Sinha** : Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state how the Departmental Officers concerned with the case of misappropriation of Government money by an auctioneering firm, referred to at para 26 of the Audit Report (Civil) 1955, part I have been dealt with ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): The judicial proceeding in the case terminated only on 16th July, 1956 and the question of fixation of responsibility, so far as the Departmental officers are concerned, is under the consideration of Government.

Import of Iron and Steel

*1530. **Shri S. C. Samanta:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of iron and steel that was imported from the U.S.S.R. and China during 1955-56;

(b) how much of it was allotted to the Railways;

(c) whether any amount of thomas quality and millimeters section was imported during the period;

(d) if so, from which countries; and

(e) whether Railways accepted any quantity of steel mentioned in part (c) above?

The Minister of Heavy Industries (Shri M. M. Shah): (a) U.S.S.R.—71,352 Metric tons.

China—31,713 Metric tons.

(b) No. quantity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Mainly from France, Germany, Belgium and Luxembourg.

(e) Yes, Sir.

International Trade Fair Washington

*1531. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India participated this year (*i.e.* May, 1956) in Washington Fifth International Trade Fair;

(b) if so, the exhibits which were most liked ; and

(c) the value of goods sold and orders received for supply?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It has been reported that the following articles were most liked:—

> "Sanganeer prints, black pottery, glazed pottery, Zari bags, horn birds, turquoise jewellery and boxes etc., Bombay and Delhi copper, silver jewellery, Jaipur brass animals and Lanterns, marble, Poona dolls, Bombay cotton prints, Bihar striped bedspreads, Kashmir woodwork, Kondapali toys, etc."

(c) Value of goods sold —Rs. 6,220/-
Value of orders received—Rs.1,160/- (approximately).

Jute Enquiry Commission

*1532. **Shri L. N. Mishra:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 1209 on the 5th April, 1956 and state the steps taken so far to organise co-operative marketing for sale and purchase of Jute in the light of the recommendation of the Jute Enquiry Commission?

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): The recommendation was brought to the notice of the State Governments concerned, for such action as they consider necessary.

Cashewnut Imports

1062. **Shri V. P. Nayar:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to lay a statement on the Table of the Sabha showing the number of firms which are engaged in the import of raw cashewnuts since 1947-48 to date and state the names of the countries from which Cashewnuts are imported by these firms?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The number of firms engaged in the import of raw cashewnuts during the years 1955 and 1956 was 31 and 33 respectively. Information for earlier years is not readily available.

Imports have been made from Zanzibar, Tanganyika and Kenya in British East Africa and Portuguese East Africa.

Small-scale and Large-scale Industries

1063. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma:** Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state the names of the small-scale and large-scale industries for which grants or loans have been sanctioned to the Government of Assam in 1954-55 and 1955-56?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

Cashew Factories

1065. Shri V. P. Nayar : Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) the price of raw nuts paid by the Cashew Factories in Travancore-Cochin State during the First Five Year Plan; and

(b) the export earnings from the sale of processed Cashew kernels in foreign markets during the same period?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) A statement showing wholesale prices of cashewnuts at the end of each month since January 1952 is laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 17].

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given in reply to part (b) of Starred Question No. 657 by Shri V. P. Nayar on 14-8-56.

Textile Mills

1066. Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta: Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that textile mills are proposed to be started in Rajasthan ;

(b) if so, where these will be located ; and

(c) the number of spindles and loans sanctioned therefore?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) to (c). Two cotton textile spinning mills have so far been licensed to be installed in Rajasthan, one at Jaipur and the other at Udaipur with 10,000 and 15,000 spindles respectively.

कलकत्ता में खादी वाणिज्यालय

१०६७. **श्री कृष्णाचार्य जोशी** : क्या उत्पादन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) खादी की बिक्री बढ़ाने के लिये क्या कलकत्ते में एक बड़ा वाणिज्यालय खोला जा रहा है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो कब खोला जा रहा है ?

उत्पादन मंत्री (श्री क० च० रेड्डी) : (क) तथा (ख). ज्यों ही ठीक जगह मिल जाएगी, ऐसा करने का विचार है ।

State Trading Corporation

1068. Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha : Will the Minister of **Commerce** and **Industry** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation of India has established its agencies in foreign countries; and

(b) how many foreign countries have their State Trading agencies in India?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Six; namely Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, Hungary, Rumania and U.S.S.R.

काठमांडू का राजदूतावास

१०६९. **श्री विभूति मिश्र** : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत के स्वाधीन होने के पूर्व काठमांडू (नेपाल) के राजदूतावास में विभिन्न वर्गों के कितने कर्मचारी थे और ३० जून, १९५६ को कितने थे ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति से पूर्व और स्वतन्त्रता प्राप्ति के बाद स्थानीय जगहों से भरती होने वाले व्यक्तियों के वेतन क्रमों और उन्हें दी जाने वाली सुविधाओं में भेद किया गया है । और

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं ?

प्रधान मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक कार्य तथा वित्त मंत्री (श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू) : (क) एक ब्योरा सदन की मेज पर रक्खा है । [देखिये परिशिष्ट ६, अनुबन्ध सं० १८].

(ख) तथा (ग). ब्रिटिश दूतावास से जो भारतीय क्लर्क लिये गये थे, उनके साथ, विदेशी भत्तों और मकान वगैरह के मामलों में, भारतीय आधार के लोगों की

तरह बर्ताव किया जाता था । भरती किये गये अन्य स्थानीय कर्मचारियों को, विदेश-स्थित सभी मिशनों के लिये भारत सरकार की आम नीति के अनुसार, जाति भेद के बिना, स्थानीय दरों पर वेतन दिया जाता है ।

Indo-Pakistan Agreement on Moveable Evacuee Property

1071. Shri Krishnacharya Joshi : Will the Minister of **Rehabilitation** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Pakistan is implementing the conclusions reached in November, 1955 regarding the working of the Indo-Pakistan Agreement of June 1950 on moveable evacuee property in the form of consolidated implementation instructions ; and

(b) if so, the number of decisions implemented?

The Minister of Rehabilitation (Shri Mehr Chand Khanna) : (a) and (b). The decisions cover a wide range of items. Buried treasure operations are proceeding satisfactorily. The decisions relating to other items had to be implemented in accordance with an agreed phased programme. Pakistan adhered to this programme only partially. The matter was, therefore, discussed at the meeting of the Implemetation Committee of Moveable Property Agreement held at Karachi in July, 1956 and as a result revised target dates have been fixed.

मेव

१०७२. **श्री बाल्मीकी** : क्या पुनर्वास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) १९५३–५४, १९५४–५५ और १९५५–५६ में क्रमश: कितने कितने मेव भारत आये ; और

(ख) वे कहां-कहां बसाये गये हैं ?

पुनर्वास उपमंत्री (श्री ज० कृ० भोंसले) : (क) उन मेवों के जो १९५३–५४, १९५४–५५ और १९५५–५६ में भारत वापिस आये कोई आंकड़े नहीं रखे गये ।

(ख) जो मेव १८ जुलाई, १९४८ से पहिले भारत में वापिस आये उन्हें ही बसावट की सुविधायें प्राप्त थीं । जो बाद में आये उन्हें नहीं इसलिये उनके बसावट का प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।

Bhakra Dam

1073. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will the Minister of **Irrigation and Power** be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated life of Bhakra Dam; and

(b) how it is calculated?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi) : (a) About 600 years.

(b) This estimate is based on the assessment of silting possibilities of the Bhakra Dam Reservoir. On the assumption that the present inflow of detritus continues, the total loss of live storage capacity of the Bhakra Reservoir on account of silting will occur in a period of 600 years.

Work-Charged Staff of C.P.W.D.

1075. Shri Nambiar : Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work-charged staff of the C.P.W.D. are sent outstation from their head-quarters on duty for Government work ; and

(b) if so, the Travelling and Daily Allowances admissible to them on such occasions?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) On such occasions, they were being given one single fare of the lowest class and no daily allowance was admissible. Government have recently issued orders for the payment of T. A. and D. A. to specified categories of work-charged staff who are transferred or are required to travel in public interest, on the same basis as other Central Government servants, subject to certain conditions.

Work-Charged Staff of C.P.W.D.

1076. Shri Nambiar : Will the Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work-charged staff of the C.P.W.D. are transferred in the interest of public service ;

(b) if so, the Travelling Allowance admissible to them on such occasion;

(c) whether there is any joining time given to them; and

(d) if not, the reason therefor?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). They were being given as T. A. one single fare of the lowest class, and as joining time the actual time taken in the performance of the journey. Government have recently issued orders allowing certain specified categories of work-charged staff who are transferred in public interest T.A. and joining time on the same basis as other Central Government servants, subject to certain conditions.

(d) The question does not arise.

Uranium Ore

1077. **Shri Debendra Nath Sarma** : Will the **Prime Minister** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Geological Survey of India has disclosed the existence of Uranium ore in Assam dur ng 1955-56 ; and

(b) if so, the places and quality ?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs and Finance (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru) (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

Import of Rock Salt

1078. **Shri B. N. Misra** : Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to State.

(a) whether any quota for the rock salt imported from Pakistan, has been fixed for each State on a State-wise basis ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) Yes, from rock Salt to be imported from Pakistan.

		maunds.
(b)	1. Rajasthan . .	35,750
	2. Assam . . .	16,500
	3. Bihar . . .	89,100
	4. U. P. . . .	1,89,200
	5. Punjab . . .	2,89,000
	6. Delhi . . .	1,00,100
	7. Madhya Pradesh .	19,250
	8. Madhya Bharat .	7,700
	9. PEPSU . .	89,100
	10. Ajmer . . .	28,600
	11. Vindhya Pradesh .	7,700
	12. West Bengal . .	2,000

Coffee Exports

1079. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : **Sardar Akarpuri** :

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether India proposes to export coffee to Russia during 1956-57 ? and

(b) if so, the quantity thereof ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) and (b). We have exported 500 tons of coffee to Russia during April and May, 1956.

Export of Tea

1080. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : **Sardar Akarpuri** : **Shri Gajendra Prasad Sinha** : **Shri Raghunath Singh** :

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govenment of U.S.S.R. proposes to buy Indian tea during the current financial year ; and

(b) if so, the quantity thereof and at what price ?

The Minister of Commerce nd Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : From April to the 7th July this year, 331,284 lbs. of tea have been exported from Calcutta to the U.S.S.R.

All India Khadi and Village Industries Board

1081. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : **Sardar Akarpuri** :

Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount spent during 1955-56 through the All-India Khadi and Village Industries Board in Punjab and PEPSU.

(b) the concerns that have received the aid ; and

(c) the progress made so far ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy) : (a) and (b). A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 19].

(c) As the funds were disbursed to the Institutions during the last quarter of 1955-56, utilization details are not yet available.

Weavers' Co-operative Societies

1082. **Sardar Iqbal Singh** : **Sardar Akarpuri** :

Will the Minister of **Commerce and Industry** be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of financial help given to the Weavers' Co-operative Societies in Punjab during 1955-56 ;

(b) the progress made with regard to production and sale of handloom products by these Societies during the same period ;

(c) whether any other facilities have been asked for by the State Government in this regard ; and

(d) the programme for the current financial year ?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry and Iron and Steel (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari) : (a) Amounts totalling Rs. 78,000/- as loan and Rs. 2,94,858/- as grant were sanctioned during 1955-56 for development of handloom industry in Punjab.

(b) Figures relating to the production and sale of handloom fabrics by co-operative societies during 1955-56 are not available. However, during the month of April, 1956 it is reported that 6,872 looms within the co-operative fold produced 2,73,902 yards and sold 3,20,715 yards of cloth.

(c) No special facility falling outside the scope of the general principles for Central assistance has been asked for by the State Government.

(d) For the current year, schemes estimated to cost Rs. 2,18,708/- have been already sanctioned. Schemes estimated to cost a further Rs. 2,34,000/- are at present under consideration.

Supply of Electric Fans

1083. Shri D. C. Sharma : Will be Minister of **Works, Housing and Supply** be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that table fans are provided to those Government servants only who are drawing Rs. 500 p.m. or more ;

(b) if so, the reasons for maintaining such a distinction ;

(c) whether it is also a fact that no fans are provided to those Government servants who are sharing accommodation with others; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken for providing such amenities at least to those Government servants who require it ?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri P. S. Naskar) : (a) Table fans are generally given on hire to officers drawing Rs. 500 p.m. or more, but in exceptional circumstances and subject to fans being available after meeting the demand of entitled officers, these are made availabe to officers drawing even less than Rs. 500 p.m.

(b) There is only a small stock of table fans to be given on hire on special request and subject to availability of fans, to Government servants drawing emoluments of Rs. 500 or more per mensem. The restriction has been imposed with a view to restrict the cost involved in the purchase and maintenance of table fans.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) No change in the existing position is contemplated.

Village Industries

1084. Shri Deogam : Will the Minister of **Production** be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government of Bihar have submitted schemes for the development of the the following village industries during the year 1956-57 (*i*) Khadi, (*ii*) *Ghani* Oil Industry, (*iii*) Hand pounding of rice, (*iv*) Bee-keeping, (*v*) Hand made paper, (*vi*) Cottage Match Industry and (*vii*) Soap making with non-edible oils and

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned either by way of loan or otherwise under each scheme ?

The Minister of Production (Shri K.C. Reddy) : (a) Yes Sir, except for the Khadi Industry.

(b) These schemes are under examination.

Local Development Works

1085. Shri S. V. Ramaswamy : Will the Minister of **Planning** be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 898 on the 9th August, 1956 and state :

(a) the amount of allotment of funds for Local Development Works in the Second Five Year Plan period ;

(b) the State-wise allotment ; and

(c) the assessment of Local Development Works undertaken in the Madras State during the First Five Year Plan ?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) and (b). An amount of Rs. 15 crores has been provided in the Second Five Year Plan for the local development works. The allocations to various States, are, however, made annually and the allotment to States for the current year is indicated in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [*See* Appendix IX, annexure No. 20].

(c) Assessment is being made.

DAILY DIGEST

[Tuesday, 28th August, 1956]

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Dated 12.3.201

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 28th August, 1956

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

(*See* Part I)

12-08 P.M.

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE

Shri Frank Anthony (Nominated—Anglo-Indians): Sir, I have given notice of a motion of privilege, to be raised with your consent. It is about the comment made in the *Hindustan Times*, dated Sunday, August 26th, 1956, under the heading: 'Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill'. I submit, with respect, that the whole report is tendentious, but I have to complain particularly about one passage. It reads like this: it is as if I was saying:

> "Let it be understood that what stood in the way of the Minister and his Deputy were their "physiques"—the word 'physiques' is in inverted commas— "..in that both Mr. Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mr. Alagesan are rather short-statured."

We say all manner of things in this House. We criticise people on the basis of their policies. I am sometimes carried away by emotion. However, I do not think that I have ever committed the rather unpardonable mistake of descending to personalities and make utterances of this description. The word 'physique' is attributed to me; it is put within inverted commas. It is purely an

invention. I would ask you to look into my speeches; I made several Speeches that day. You will find that I have not used the word 'physique' anywhere there. The whole passage here is not only an invention, but is it mischievous. It first puts into my mouth the word 'physique' and reads as if I said that they were not fit to be the Minister and the Deputy Minister because of their stature. I never said that at all. What did I say?

I have said he was a good man, and my grievance was that he was a weak man. I also referred to him—you may say that it is colloquialism—as "dear good little chap". That, I submit, anybody who knows English idioms will agree, is an expression not only of esteem but of affection. One does not use it in a disparaging way. And to say from that that I have argued that he should not be a Minister because of his size is quite wrong.

Then, Sir, I would draw your attention to the P.T.I. Report on the same subject. It is an objective and fair report. It has made a reference to what I said: "He is a good man, but a weak man". That is all right. Report me fairly but do not put into my mouth some personal reference to his size, to his physique, when I never made any such reference; that is what I say;

The report also says that I said this about Shri Alagesan. I said a lot of hard things about Alagesan, but nowhere did I refer to any such things. I did not even use the expression of esteem that he is a dear lovable little person because I have not got the same regard for him as I have for the Minister. Then how can it be said that I said all

[Shri Frank Anthony]

these things about him. The whole passage is mischievous.

I have made a complaint about the previous part. The point that I am raising is this. Is it permissible to report like this. Sometimes it is only human that some persons may err in drawing their own conclusions. But even in the first part, in the second paragraph of the report, it is said: "charging it with 'callousness and dishonesty of purpose in its dealings with the employees' ". That also is pure fabrication and it has been put in inverted commas. Nowhere have I used these words. As I said, the whole thing is mischievous in order to put what I said in a wrong light.

Mr. Speaker: I will consider this matter. Even that day I felt, referring to an hon. Minister here, who is much in advance of age than the hon. Member who spoke, as "little chap" was only to refer to his physique. How is he little? An hon. Member here in this House is not at all little. That littleness or smallness applies to his stature. I felt it rather awkward that the hon. Member should say "little chap". Is he little? Is Dr. Katju little? Would he say that to Dr. Katju?

Shri Frank Anthony: I am sorry, Sir.....

Mr. Speaker: He would not say that to Dr. Katju. This "little", therefore, in that context, I felt referred only to personal appearance. Therefore, I felt a little embarassed. I did not want to pull up the hon. Member then, who was so enthusiastic in using expressions which equally forcibly could have been expressed otherwise for the purpose of arguing that both hon. Ministers—the junior as well as the senior—did not do their duty properly, if he felt they were not doing so. Anyhow, I am not trying to defend what has appeared in the statement of the paper. I shall look into this and take whatever action is desirable and proper.

Shri Frank Anthony: Sir, you have been unfair to me. Had I used the words "little chap", then certainly it would be objectionable. But when I say: "dear, lovable, little person" anybody who knows English will say that it is an expression of esteem. I say that usually to my dearest of friends. I do not see how you can take offence to that. Certainly the position would have been different if I had said: "little chap". That can be said as referring to the physique. But I said: "dear, lovable, little person".

Mr. Speaker: I am really sorry the hon. Member thinks that he alone knows English in this House and nobody else. I do not want to bandy words with him. Is he little in knowledge? I can understand if he is a young fellow, a little boy to be called a little chap. I cannot understand an elderly man being called a little chap. Would the hon. Member call Dr. Katju as a little chap?

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): Why should I be dragged into the picture?

Mr. Speaker: There is no doubt that this "little" means physical appearance. Of course, the very word "physique" was not used, I agree as has been said in the report. It need not have been put there, though it was understood in that way. Anyhow I shall certainly look into the matter, because the hon. Member takes exception to it. I shall see what ought to be done and what can be done.

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi West-Reserved-Sch. Tribes): Sir, may I just intervene? I am very glad you have agreed to look into this matter. But we are all trying to learn English. There is one thing I should like to say. As far as the English language is concerned, that expression—it is not just one word "little" to which you are pinning down yourself—itself is certainly one of endearment.

Mr. Speaker: When you say that the little chap is a good chap.....

Shri Chattopadhyaya (Vijayavada): Sir, I venture to suggest that the word "little" was used by our hon. Member here in a very big way.

Mr. Speaker: We will now go to the next item of business.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

REPORT OF PLANTATION INQUIRY COMMISSION PART I—TEA

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report of the Plantation Inquiry Commission Part I—Tea, 1956, together with Appendices and Annexures. [*Placed in Library. See No. S—358/56.*]

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

Secretary: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:

> "In accordance with the provisions of rule 125 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha, at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1956, agreed without any amendment to the States Reorganisation Bill, 1956, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 10th August, 1956."

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTIETH REPORT

Sardar Hukam Singh (Kapurthala-Bhatinda): Sir, I beg to present the Sixtieth Report of Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): Sir, with your permission, I would like to announce a slight change in the programme of Government business for this House for the current week as announced by me on 25th August.

Owing to pressure of urgent business awaiting disposal in relation to the time available for it, it has become necessary to postpone for some time the consideration of the All India Khadi and Village Industries Commission Bill. Time permitting, this Bill will be brought forward at a later date. Instead the Government Resolution seeking the approval of this House to the continuance in force of the proclamation of the President in relation to the State of Travancore-Cochin will be brought forward during the current week. From the Revised List of Business for August 28 and 30 Members would have noticed that this has already been provided.

I should also like to take this opportunity of correcting a statement made by me on 25th August. With regard to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Orders (Amendment) Bill, I stated that in my absence an announcement was made that the 6th and 7th of September, were allotted for it. I find that while the anticipation of dates for the consideration of this Bill is substantially correct, no formal announcement was made about the particular date. This Bill be taken up immediately after the passing of the Constitution (Ninth Amendment) Bill.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Sir, may I make a submission? As far as the Business Advisory Committee's Report is concerned, 2 hours have been allotted for the discussion of the Report of Mr. Appleby regarding the reorganisation of our administration. One who reads that report will find that he has made very serious sug-

[Shri S. S. More]

gestions which may look like aspersions on the working of the Parliament, and without going into the merits of those allegations or statements I would request you to give at least 4 hours for the discussion, because he deals with the question of how the whole Parliament should behave, what particular matter should come under our criticism and scrutiny and what should not, and so on. From that point of view, I am inclined to believe that some of the remarks may constitute a violation of the privilege of the House. But it is too serious a matter and we should get at least 4 hours for discussion.

Mr. Speaker: I do not know if the House would be prepared to deduct all that time from the time allotted for discussion of the Plan. We considered this matter the other day. Hon. Members have read all that, whatever has been said by Shri More. Of course, there are allegations which have to be just met or otherwise explained on the floor of the House. That is why over and above the time allotted—one hour was allotted—it was thought that one hour ought to be taken from the time allotted for the Plan, just making it up to 2 hours. Let us see. Hon. Members will be referring to this report also while discussing the Second Plan.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): Sir, I entirely agree with what my hon. friend Shri S. S. More has said. I do think that an exclusive discussion on Dr. Paul Appleby's Report is necessary, instead of having casual remarks in the course of the debate on the Five Year Plan. If time cannot be found for discussion during this session, in the first week of the next session this Report should be discussed, because it concerns the work of Parliament. As I said, if time cannot be found in this session, in the first week of next session at least 4 hours should be alloted for this discussion.

Another point is, the rules under the Representation of the People Act, 1950 were laid on the Table of the House some time ago. My hon. friend Shri K. K. Basu and myself tabled amendments to these rules under the provisions of the Act. But no announcement has been made whether the rules would be discussed in this House at all or not. I think our amendments will lapse if they are not taken up before the session concludes. I asked the Minister, Shri Pataskar, sometime ago, whether the rules under the bigger Act, the 1951 Act, would be laid on the Table. He had given an assurance that they would certainly be brought and laid on the Table during this session.

But no rules have been laid on the Table of the House so far. The next session of the House would perhaps be the last session of this Parliament, and I do not know whether it will be feasible for Government to bring those rules and lay them on the Table of the House during this session. So, we can take action on them early next session.

Shri S. S. More: I would like to make one small suggestion. The rules framed under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, and the rules framed under the Representation of the People Act, 1951—these two sets of rules—ought to be taken together, because they pertain to an integrated picture. They are an Integrated whole. I would, therefore, request you to take necessary steps, under the Rules of Procedure, for postponing the consideration of the rules framed under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, so that they can be taken along with the rules which are still to be placed on the Table of the House, regarding the Representation of the People Act, 1951. We can then have a complete picture when we proceed to amend these rules.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): I am afraid Shri S. S. More has not properly understood the implications of the rules. The rules

under the Representation of the People Act, 1950, are restricted to the preparations of electoral rolls. If we discuss them in November next, by that time the electoral rolls for the coming elections would have been completed. If we have to amend any part of the rules, we would not be able to do it before the next General Election. Therefore, those rules ought to be taken up first.

Further, I remember that the Business Advisory Committee has allotted two hours for discussing these rules. The rules were also sent to the Committee on Subordinate Legislation and they have also made some recommendations. So, if we do not find time for discussing these rules, I request that the Business Advisory Committee should allow more time.

Shri Kamath: Otherwise, it would be a violation of the Act.

Shri Satya Narayan Sinha: At present, I am not in a position to say anything definitely. I have to consult my colleague. I will make some statement about it the day after tomorrow, because tomorrow is a holiday.

Shri Kamath: Yes, Sir holiday for Janmashtami.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Minister will make a statement regarding the rules framed under the Representation of the People Act.

So far as the suggestion that was made by Shri Kamath, is concerned, namely, that the consideration of the Appleby Report may stand over till the next session. I do not know if the hon. Members will not refer to it in the course of the debate on the Second Five Year Plan. I hope they will naturally refer to it. If we find that the additional hour that is allotted for this report is not enough, the report will stand over, and the discussion on it will be continued in the next session.

Shri Kamath: You are aware that the Comptroller and Auditor-General also has made some comments on the Appleby Report.

Mr. Speaker: Yes; I am aware. If a number of points about the report remain to be touched in the course of the debate on the Second Five Year Plan, within the time allotted, we will take the sense of the House and consider the further allotment of time for the Appleby Report.

Shri K. K. Basu: I feel that we can postpone the consideration of the Appleby Report here and now. At any rate, that part of the Appleby Report which deals with parliamentary control should be discussed separately and not along with the consideration of the Second Five Year Plan, because, the debate on the Second Five Year Plan will be a general, over-all debate on the whole administrative set-up. Parliamentary control is an important subject which should be discussed in all its aspects separately.

Mr. Speaker: One hour has been allotted for the discussion of the Appleby Report, and if we want more time, it will be carried over to the next session.

Shri Kamath: Two hours have been allotted.

Mr. Speaker: One hour has been allotted, but one more hour may be taken from the time allowed for the debate on the Second Five Year Plan.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

FORTIETH REPORT

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs (Shri Satya Narayan Sinha): I beg to move:

> "That this House agrees with the Fortieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th August, 1956".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That this House agrees with the Fortieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 25th August, 1956".

The motion was adopted.

Shri S. S. More: I wanted to say that the report is being accepted subject to the remarks that you made.

Mr. Speaker: Those remarks are already there.

STATE BANK OF HYDERABAD BILL*

The Minister of Revenue and Defence Expenditure (Shri A. C. Guha): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to transfer the share capital of the Hyderabad State Bank to the Reserve Bank of India and to provide for its proper management and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to transfer the share capital of the Hyderabad State Bank to the Reserve Bank of India and to provide for its proper management and other matters connected therewith or incidental thereto".

The motion was adopted.

Shri A. C. Guha: I introduce the Bill.

TRAVANCORE-COCHIN APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL

The Minister of Revenue and Civil Expenditure (Shri M. C. Shah): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of the Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57".

The motion was adopted.

Shri M. C. Shah: I introduce** the Bill and beg to move**:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57, be taken into consideration".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Travancore-Cochin for the service of the financial year 1956-57, be taken into consideration".

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 1 to 3, the Schedule, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

Shri M. C. Shah: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed".

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed.

The motion was adopted.

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*Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary] Part II—Section 2, dated 28th August 1956. pp. 773-75.

** Introduced and moved with the recommendation of the President.

STANDARDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES BILL

Mr. Speaker: The House will now take up further consideration of the motion moved by Shri Nityanand Kanungo on the 25th August, 1956, for reference of the Standards of Weights and Measures Bill to a Joint Committee.

Shri S. C. Samanta will continue his speech.

Shri S. C. Samanta (Tamluk): Yesterday, I was referring to the weights of seers in different parts of West Bengal. The weights and measures differ even within the same district and even from commodity to commodity. Even when the nomenclature remains the same, the units represented are different in quantity. Yesterday, my friends were telling the House that the opinion of Chambers of Commerce and other bodies and of the people at large has not been taken into consideration. Since 1870, the Government have been trying to have a uniform standard of weights and measures in the country. So many committees had gone into the question and produced reports. I shall mention them here: Report of the Bengal Committee on Uniform Weights and Measures, 1866; Report of the Central Committee on Weights and Measures, 1867; Report of the Weights and Measures Committees, 1913-14; Report of the Royal Commission on Agriculture, 1928; Report on the Marketing of Wheat in India, 1937; Report on the Marketing of Linseed in India, 1938; Report on Weights and Measures of Capacity in Bihar, 1938; Report on the Marketing of Rice in India, 1941; Report on the Marketing of Lac in India, 1943; Report of the Marketing Sub-Committee of the Policy Committee on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, of the Reconstruction Committee of Council, 1946; Annual Report of the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, 1948; and the Report on the Marketing of Groundnuts in India, 1953. All these reports have elaborated the handicaps to trade and the hardships of cultivators because of the want of uniform standards of weights and measures in the country. In the meantime, the Planning Commission and the Indian Standards Institution have progressed in the matter. The circular issued by the I.S.I. and the information supplied by the State Marketing Officers to the Planning Commission show that every State Government is ready to have a uniform standard of weights and measures in the country. I think all Members are for it. Some friends are telling us that this is not the time and we may take it up after 15 years and so on. After setting up so many committees, if the people at large and if the villagers are not to be cheated, then a uniform standard of weights and measures should be introduced now. I think this is the proper time for doing this.

By passing this Bill, the Government have to take the responsibility to see that this reaches even the distant villages. The Committee which was established by the Planning Commission have given some suggestions, which should be considered after passing this Bill.

They have said:

> "The Government of India to introduce the decimal system of currency in which the weights and dimensions of coins should be related to the metric system. Intensive education and propaganda programme including, among other things, the following:
>
> (a) teaching in elementary and secondary schools...." etc.

There are so many suggestions and they say:

> "(f) publication of informative bulletins and pamphlets including conversion tables;"

I want to add the words "in all regional languages" at the end Then,

> "(j) publicity through village panchyats."

I want to add at the end:

[Shri S. C. Samanta]

"Community project areas, commmunity development project areas and N.E.S. blocks".

This question of the introduction of the metric system was also considered by the director of the National Physical Laboratory, England, Sir Edward Bullard. He has remarked that though the metric system is not prevalent in England, after going thoroughly into the conditions in India, he feels that the metric system should be introduced here. There is a fear in the minds of some that if we introduce the metric system, greater commercial difficulties may arise with U.K. and U.S.A. where the metric system is not prevalent. From the remarks of Sir Edward Bullard, we may remain content that no such thing will happen and so, that ground cannot be put forward for deferring the use of this system in India.

Lastly, I would request the members of the Joint Committee to remember one point. Just as we retained the name "paisa" in the case of coins, so also, it should be examined whether some name which is common in India may be retained in the case of weights. For example, I would request them to consider whether "tola" cannot be retained. If we take 100 tolas to be a seer, 3,000 tolas will become a maund and we may carry on like up to a ton. The Joint Committee and the Government should think over the matter on these lines and see whether some such Indian nomenclature, which will be at par with the metric system, can be evolved and retained.

With these words, I whole-heartedly support the Bill.

The Minister of Consumer Industries (Shri Kanungo): I have hardly much to contribute to this debate, because my work has been made much easier by the contribution of all the Members, especially Mr. Chowdhury and Mr Samanta. The motion before the House is the committing of the Bill to the Joint Committee. Every one of the speakers, including my esteemed senior colleague, Mr. Reddi, agrees that standardisation of weights and measures is necessary. There have been various suggestions as to how, when and in what steps it should be done.

I might mention that to the several difficulties ahead of us in the transition and change-over period mentioned by the various speakers, hundred and one others may be added. We have no illusions about the difficulties, but, everyone who thinks about it, and I believe the members of the Joint Committee in particular, will realise that sooner we face these difficulties and find solutions for them, the better it will be for all concerned.

One of the means of overcoming most of the difficulties is the speed at which we undertake the completion of this programme of change over. Doubts have been expressed whether the State Governments have been consulted or whether they have expressed their concurrence without thinking much about it. I beg to submit that the State Governments know fully well that under the present Constitution, the implementation of the change over is their responsibility. In fact, they are more than fully aware of it. Almost all the States have set up special committee presided over by one of the Ministers concerned with the work or one of the senior officers. In some places, these committees have met several times in the mean time to find out what are the steps that are required for the completion of this programme.

It was expressed by one of the speakers that the Act of 1939 was on the statute book, but the stadardisation could not be one. I hope and I am sure that under the existing direction of the House, no such lag will happen in the implementation of this programme. The urgency of it is so great and so pressing that I do not think we can wait for it.

The motion for circulating the Bill for eliciting public opinion was sought to be justified on the ground that the

va.ious commercial bodies and State Governments have not had an opportunity of considering the matter. Several hon. Members have already mentioned the specific instances where consultations have taken place and how, for the last several decades, this matter has been under discussion. I would specifically mention that in a matter like this, a matter of fundamental importance rega.ding the type of weights and measures which has to be the standard measure in a country, the only persons who can effectively think about it and express an opinion about it are the Members of Parliament. Each one of the Members of this House represents hundreds of thousands of his constituents. They are the best judges. They a:e in constant touch with the pulse of public opinion, so to say. I suppose their decision is the decision of the people. Therefore, I submit that nothing will be gained except westage of a valuable half year or 4 months to be more exact by accepting the proposal for circulation. One of my hon. friends mentioned the routine of eliciting public opinion. I need hardly say that that procedure is not necessary and will not produce any worthwhile results.

Doubts have been expressed about the period of transition which has been mentioned in the Bill as ten years. The doubts have been mostly that that period is too short for the purpose. But, experience elsewhere in regard to this shows that it is not so difficult. In the U.S.S.R. they had planned for a period of 10 years to complete the change-over. They were able to do it much quicker, somewhere in about eight years. Thailand took 13 years; Italy took ten years only; Czechoslovakia took four years; Turkey three years. In Syria, they did not have any transition period at all. Syria is a small country and I do not know how they are managing. I perfectly realise, considering the vastness of the country and also the fact that the inspection procedure and staff for this type of work is not existant in some of the smaller States and it is not adequate in most of the States, that it may be difficult. But, I humbly submit that once Parliament has expressed its desire, nothing will stand in the way. Again, I want you to realise that the quicker we do it, the easier it is for us.

Regarding publicising the idea for which suggestions have been made by different Members, I submit that not only these but hundred others have to be found out. That is why we have got special committees formed in the different States to find out ways and means of how the programme could be hastened. We, from our end, will be publishing material which will be useful in explaining doubts and difficulties which may be raised from time to time. The committee of which I have the honour to be the Chairman, has already decided that they will bring out a periodical in which worthwhile papers and material will be published which would help the people in the States and elsewhere to put across the idea as clearly as possible.

Regarding commercial associations and industrial associations, they have been consulted at every stage, I suppose, several times. All of them have agreed in principle to the change over. That is obvious. No one can disagree with it. But, it is also true that they will have difficulties. Any change-over, as you, Sir, will realise, means difficulties. They have to be overcome. Therefore, the Government of India have decided to offer advisory service where it is required by the smaller enterprises, by the smaller establishments so that their particular problems can be solved in consultation with the Government. That service, I hope, will be available in a very short time. Certain suggestions have been made that instead of adopting the metric system, we might as well invent a new system for our country. I do not think it is necessary to say anything about it. To use any of the existing nomenclatures or the weights and measures which are prevalent in our country which run into hundreds will create confusion because the concept of the content of

[Shri Kanungo]

a particular weight is different and once you adopt that weight, it will create confusion amongst others and it will lead to various abuses which a standardised system of weights and measures is designed to overcome.

This particular Bill only lays down the standard, and the standard as such will be hardly understood by the public. The definitions and all that which you find in the Bill and hardly anything which can be discussed by the public in general. It is only for the Members of this hon. House to digest and to express their opinion on it. In regard to the other steps which are more important and about which doubts have been expressed, as I said where legislation is necessary we shall come to the House for it. Regarding the programmes and the implementation of those programmes, we will have to consult not only the Members of Parliament but also the representatives of the people in the State Legislatures because it is a programme which has got to be implemented all over the country, and God willing, I hope once the standards are laid down by law by Parliament the programme can be implemented and implemented in a shorter period than anticipated.

Mr. Speaker: I shall put the motion for reference to the Joint Committee to the House.

Shri Kanungo: There is an amendment for eliciting public opinion. That has got to be put first. Does he press it?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: I have no objection to withdraw the amendment. My intention in bringing the amendment before the House was to focuss the attention of the Government on the extraordinary difficulties they have to face both here and in the States in implementing this. Also during the next ten years there are several other things probably much more important than this which we have to do. Anyhow, I do not want to press my amendment I beg leave to withdraw it.

Mr. Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Hon. Members: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to establish standards of weights and measures based on the metric system be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 45 members; 30 from this House, namely, Shri R. D. Misra, Shri P. T. Thanu Pillai, Shri Bhagwat Jha 'Azad', Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan, Shri M. Muthukrishnan, Shri U. R. Bogawat,, Shri Akbar Chavda, Shri M. B. Vaishya, Shri Ganpati Ram, Shri Sunder Lall, Shri A. R. Sewal, Shri Khub Chand Sodhia, Shri S. R. Telkikar, Shri Bhagu Nandu Malvia, Shri Balwant Sinha Mehta, Sardar T. S. Akarpuri, Shri C. R. Basappa, Shri L. J. Singh, Shri K. T. Achuthan, Shri Kamal Krishna Das, Shri Birendranath Katham, Shri Bhawani Singh, Shri N. R. M. Swamy, Shri Baddam Yella Reddy, Shri H. N. Mukerjee, Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy, Shri R. N. Singh, Shri Nand Lal Sharma, Shri Kailash Pati Sinha and Shri Nityanand Kanungo and 15 members from Rajya Sabha;

"that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of members of the Joint Committee;

"that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the 20th November, 1956;

"that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Com-

mittees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

"that this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER FORCE BILL

The Minister of Defence (Dr. Katju): I beg to move*:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Volunteer Force for imparting military training to citizens of India, be taken into consideration."

I need not take much time of the House in dwelling upon the object of this Bill because it is already well known and it is a matter for gratification that the organisation which this Bill seeks to form and introduce has been in operation now for nearly 18 months and has made a great appeal to the people of the country.

The urge for securing elementary training is a strong one. It is a desirable one, and the people need it and should have it. We have several organisations. We have for our college students the National Cadet Corps. We have for our school boys the Auxiliary Cadet Crops. We have for citizens the Territorial Force. In 1953 we thought that we had better expand its activity and do something substantial for meeting the desire of the people in the shape of giving them military training. So, first the territorial organisation was a little enlarged, but in 1954 we thought we had better have a separate organisation, and from the month of May, 1955 this National Volunteer Force, which I have now suggested by an amendment should be called the Lok Sahayak Sena, has been functioning. The proposal is that it should impart training to begin with to a lakh of individuals each year, so that in five years time we complete the number of five lakhs.

The method proposed is to hold a camp of one month's duration. There are 200 camps to be held in a year and each camp will provide training for 500 people and thus the number of a lakh is reached. I am very happy to say that so far, during the last 16 to 17 months, we have had 261 camps. These have become very popular. They are held in all parts of India including places as far away as Leh in Jammu and Kashmir. The demand for holding camps is great. I notice that a suggestion has been made that the camps should be held in community project centres. That is a matter which we always keep in mind. It is suggested that this should be embodied in the Bill. I do not think that would be advisable because the site of the camp is fixed having regard to all the relevant factors including the response of the people, the desire of the people, the facilities which may exist there etc. I should not like myself to be bound by any such restriction.

Shri Raghubir Sahai (Etah Distt.—North-East *cum* Budaun Distt.—East): But you have already stated it in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that you will be holding these camps near community projects.

Dr. Katju: I say that is one of the relevant factors which is taken into consideration, but to introduce a sort of restrictive clause in the Bill may not be useful. Anyway, this is a general thing.

Now, we want to impart this military training to people who are fit to receive it. Today under this Bill and also in the actual procedure we have put a limit of between 18 and 40 in respect of age. I submit that this is a very useful thing and a proper thing to do. Some suggestion

* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

[Dr. Katju]

has been made that we might extend this age limit to 50. Military training is a sort of hard job and the camp life is very much like military life. It is only for a month. I suggest that having regard to the large demand, it would be better to confine ourselves to this age limit of 40. Hon. Members might have seen that in the cantonments the recruits who come are only upto the age of 18 or 19. Inasmuch as this is elementary military training, we have extended the age limit to as far as we could go, with propriety, and therefore we have put it between 18 and 40. The number of people who have offered themselves is sufficiently large, for we have been able to get 30 to 40 per cent. more applications, that is where 100 people were wanted, we have got applications from 140 people. I do think that if this experiment succeeds and if it is found that there is a demand for a larger National Volunteer Force, there would be nothing to hinder its acceptance. Hon. Members would see from the Financial Memorandum which is annexed to the Bill that the expenditure is a fairly substantial one, namely a crore of rupees.

But the object is so desirable that if the Lok Sahayak Sena makes a stronger appeal and there is a larger demand I think Parliament would be only too willing to sanction the increased expenditure.

1 P.M.

I do not want to go into any great details at this juncture that I would like to say that we do not want to make the Bill go too much into details. Hon. Members would have noticed that for the purpose of carrying out the objects of the Bill, rules will have to be framed. I notice there is a demand that these rules should be laid before Parliament for its information and for advice. That is a legitimate demand and I have no objection to comply with it. We shall see that the rules are placed on the Table of the House as quickly as possible, as soon as they are made, within 15 or 30 days. But I would also like very much to be guided by the advice of the hon. Members. If there is any lacuna in any one of these rules that lacuna could be filled up. But it is desirable that the matter should not be left too much at large. When I am setting a limit for myself, namely, thirty days within which the rules should be laid on the Table of the House, similarly, hon. Members could see to it that if they want to make any change or modification of any of the rules, that should be done also within a set limit namely within thirty days or by the end of the session, whatever it may be, so that we may know where we stand.

Now, the object of the Bill is military training. Military training means a lot of things like discipline, self-reliance, security, sense of patriotism etc. Now, I submit, when we are introducing this Bill for miliary training, we might have practically decided the things that are necessary. I do not personally like that we should go into details and make this Bill an opportunity for enunciation of very many moral doctrines. That is really not necessary. The object of the Bill, namely, provision for military training, should suffice for all practical purposes.

1·04 P.M.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Then there are certain minor matters. But there is one essential thing. The scheme proceeds upon a purely voluntary basis. There is no compulsion of any kind. If you want to enrol yourself, you can enrol yourself. The camp is going to last for one month. It may last, if the Parliament so desires, under the rules, for six weeks. But so long as it lasts, military discipline continues and if there is any breach of discipline then there is the provision for very minor punishment for that purpose. But after the training is over, after the camp is dispersed, there is no compulsion of any sort. There is no question of my asking a person who

has received this training in this camp: Very well, there is an earthquake somewhere there; you proceed to that place; or, there are floods near about 100 miles away and you must offer your service. I do hope that we can rely upon the goodwill of the people to render such services, to volunteer service. The use of compulsion will be a departure, a radical departure from the very basis of the whole of this scheme and I submit that under any circumstances that should not be done.

Then there is a minor matter. The camp is going to last for thirty days and there may be some minor infringements here and there, some breach of discipline. There may be summary trial for that and what we have proposed is a small fine. Somebody has proposed that this fine that has been named in the Bill is too large and that the sum of Rs. 50/- should be reduced to Rs. 30/-. I am rather anxious that we should not reduce it to absurdly small proportions. Always remember that every punishment that is prescribed is supposed to be the maximum punishment; it is not the minimum fine. The trying authority, if it finds that the offence is a purely nominal offence, may let the man off with a warning, with a reprimand or some such thing. I know that in law courts for some offences fines like one rupee, 5 annas and one anna are imposed. But in the case of what may be said to be fairly substantial offence, Rs. 50/- is not much too large.

Then, one of my hon. friends suggested a departure from a very well accepted principle, namely, that when a fine is imposed, it should be paid. Imprisonment in default of fine is not a method for the realisation of fine; it is only a method to compel you to carry out the order and that is the reason why it is stated that if you don't pay the fine, you are liable to be imprisoned for a period of about a week.

These are the important points in this Bill. There is not much to be said and I need not take the time of the House any more. I commend this Bill for the consideration of the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Volunteer Force for imparting military training to citizens of India, be taken into consideration."

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): May I earnestly request you to see that the time allocated to this Bill may be increased considering that a large number of hon. Members are interested in the discussion of the Bill? The time may be increased from two hours to, may I suggest, four hours.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I am afraid it would be difficult at this stage to increase it because we have put in other work for the remaining time and the hon. Speaker has just left me word that this is to be strictly adhered to. Now we shall have to adjust ourselves within that period. May I know how many hon. Members want to speak? I find there are about two dozen hon. Members wishing to participate in this debate. It is not possible to accommodate all of them. If I have an idea as to how much we want to spend for the general discussion and then for the clauses....

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava (Gurgaon): The speeches will be very short.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If five minutes each will suffice, I can accommodate everyone.

Shri U. C. Patnaik (Ghumsur): I may require a little more.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I hope the hon. Members will make a concession for Mr. Patnaik. Then that would be conceded. Now let us proceed.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: In moving amendments Nos. 19 to 22 and 24 to 26, I beg to state that I do not want to detract anything from the....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member need not move the amendments just at present. We are now having general discussion. If the hon. Member has any general observation to make, he may make it just now. If he wants to reserve his remarks when the amendments are taken up then certainly he can speak afterwards.

Dr. Katju: We may proceed at once with the clause by clause consideration as everybody agrees with the general principle of the Bill.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I would submit that I will make some general observations including my remarks on the amendments.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is all right. Then the hon. Member might also take as much time as the other Members require, namely, five minutes. Then he can take further time for clause by clause consideration.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I do not want to detract anything from the importance of the Bill I would rather point out that this Bill is one of the most important ones that have come up before this House. This is a Bill to build up our nation, to make up for certain deficiencies, which were there during the British rule, in our man-power training. You know that during the British rule in this country, we were all disarmed and demilitarised. The Britishers always tried to keep us unarmed and without proper military training, lest there might be a repetition of the Indian War of Independence in 1857 and so on. So, they had been trying always to give as little military training as possible, except for the UOTC's and the ITF units that they had later on. Thus, there was every little of military training imparted during the British rule.

It's not merely a question of drill and discipline which are so much required for training our youth, but it is more a question of raising the efficiency, raising the standards of health, and making the people disciplined. We did not have this during the British rule. Even after the attainment of freedom, there was not the required emphasis on building up these neglected avenues of our national life. There was no attempt to build up sufficient citizen forces in this country, either for defence, or for developmental activities.

In 1948-49, there was an announcement by the then Defence Minister, when he started the idea of the Territorial Army, that there would be a Territorial Army of about 1,20,000 men in this country. But the performance in 1952-53 or so was not even one-fourth or one-fifth of this: and in this big country of ours, the citizen force was confined to a few thousand men, totally inadequate either for our defence requirements or for the nation-building activities of this country.

It was only in 1953, when the Prime Minister was in charge of Defence, that the Minister of Defence Organisation, under instructions from the Prime Minister who was then the Defence Minister,—I think it was in October-November 1953—launched the Auxiliary Territorial Army and the Auxiliary Cadet Corps schemes. He placed these schemes before Members of Parliament, and he welcomed the opinions of Members of this House and also of the other House. We all met in the Central Hall some time in November-December, 1953 and we gave our suggestions. The Minister was kind enough also to circulate the draft of a Bill for the Auxiliary Territorial Army and the Auxiliary Cadet Corps.

The Defence Study Group gave a memorandum of about ten pages, making certain suggestions for the reorganisation of the Auxiliary Territorial Army. Originally, it was conceived as a small 15,000-men unit for the whole country; it was conceived in a very small way with about seven days' training and so on. We from the Study Group gave some suggestions, and we are glad to find that some of them were accepted by

the Ministry, while some others were not.

Again, when the Prime Minister was holding the Defence portfolio, a bigger scheme was launched. The old idea of the Auxiliary Territorial Army of 15,000 men was given up. You, Sir, were also there and you would recall that some of us had made some suggestions for a bigger force; and the Prime Minister, as the chairman of that committee accepted the suggestion, and wanted a force of about 5 lakhs of men during the next five years, in the whole country.

Of course, he had his own approach. He did not want it merely for fighting purposes; he did not want this big force of five lakhs of men in the next five years, only for national defence, but he wanted it more for national service, for development of natural resources, for fighting flood havoc, famines, pestilence, epidemics, fire havoc and so on. He wanted to co-ordinate this organisation with the Five Year Plan, with the community projects, development blocs and so on. But we find that very little of this is sought to be implemented either in this Bill or in the actual formations.

What we have been feeling is that the thing is not coming up to our expectations. It is not what we or the Prime Minister intended it to be, namely, a sort of adjunct to the developmental activities of the country, which would give a trained labour force. For, the present conception of conscription even in countries where conscription prevails is that it is not so much for defence as for having a labour force; in other words, conscription is for labour. The conception of the Prime Minister, when he made the suggestion of five lakhs of men in five years, was that it should give us an efficient and truly trained and disciplined labour force for our various nation-building programmes.

But, if we go through the clauses of this Bill, we find that there is very little provision for integrating this organisation with the national developmental drive.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member can go through the clauses subsequently.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I shall conclude in another five minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Five minutes' time was all that the hon. Member agreed to take. Now, he wants five more minutes.

Shri Kamath: For him, ten minutes were allowed.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Subsquently, he agreed that in the general discussion, he would take as much time as the other hon. Members, and in the clause-by-clause discussion, he would take more.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: If you would permit me, I shall give a picture of the National Volunteer Force. I shall not speak on the clauses. I shall say the whole thing in another ten minutes, during the general discussion itself. (*Interruptions.*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Order, order. While discussing the National Volunteer Force Bill, certainly, we ought to be more disciplined.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: We feel that neither this Bill, nor the organisation which has been functioning, since, I think, May last year, has been successful in enthusing the people.

It is true that there was a response of about 145 per cent. Perhaps, that was more or less a response actuated by the Rs. 15 or so of out-of-pocket money that the trainees got at the end of the camp. I do not say that that was the case with all the persons, but at least some of the people must have gone in because of the attraction of Rs. 15 out-of-pocket money that they got, besides the free food and clothing that they got during the camp period. We wanted about one lakh men, and we had about 45 per cent. more than the required number coming forth. Selections were made from among them, and then the camps were started.

[Shri U. C. Patnaik]

But then, I would like to give you a picture of the organisation, in order that you may appreciate this Bill. In the first place, I would submit that this organisation has not evoked sufficient enthusiasm among the people. We have seen so many other organisations like the scouts' movement, the Hindustan Seva Dal, Shri J. K. Bhonsle's national discipline scheme and so on, and we have seen a sort of enthusiasm there. But we do not find such an enthusiasm here. For instance, in all these other organisations, some individuals are selected to give cautions and commands, and to become leaders, and trained for leadership. The qualities of leadership are developed in all these organisations.

But here, just about 500 men or so are gathered in a camp. None of them is given any chance to develop the qualities of leadership. None of them is called upon to give cautions and commands. Even the No. 1 among them cannot give a caution and a command. That has been my experience. I have visited some camps, and I have found that no one is being given an opportunity to give cautions and commands. The persons simply fall in line, have some squad drill, and so on, only. They do not even have arms drill, or a little rifle shooting training. Of course, they are taught something in first aid and hygiene, and anti-illiteracy work. But then, we want that this organisation should have a number of other things.

It should be able to enthuse the people. It should help to develop qualities of leadership at least in a number of people. It should help the continuation of this organisation after the training. But what happens here is this. You give them one month's training. A lakh of men are trained per year and one crore of rupees is spent. At the end of the training, they go back to their villages. There is no subsequent follow-up programme. There is no scheme for training, for organising these people. In fact, in some of the camps I found that even the lists which should have been communicated to the district officer were not there. The list of cadets who had undergone training was nowhere available, with the result that the trainees after one month's training lapse back to their villages.

Then in the training itself, they are not trained to take up leadership in different villages and in groups of villages. Then there is no follow-up scheme. In that training itself, there is no scope for co-ordination with developmental programmes. We were given to understand elsewhere that the Community Projects Administration wanted about 16 hours in the whole month to give certain training, so that the cadets after their training here could be absorbed in the community projects. That means the Community Projects Administration will have an organisation to take up their developmental works, to take up their national service items and to take up other items of service during emergencies. The Community Projects Administration also does not have that advantage.

We have got to see that this organisation is so conducted, it is so planned that the people there are organised and given the necessary training for absorption in national service work. At the end of the period, at least those who have given their pledge for national service work should be utilised for developmental work and emergency work.

These are items which are lacking. Of course, the military people say that one month's training is insufficient for the trainers to train them up for the existing programme. I would point out that the full course of the Territorial Army itself in other countries is about 14 to 21 days. In the Territorial Armies of UK, Australia and USA, these citizen forces who act as the second line of defence, are given training from 14 to 21 days. Nowhere do you have more

than that. Of course, I do concede that the standard of literacy and the previous training of the people who come here and join the camps is not as high as in other countries. But there is also another factor, namely, the instructors here are not of the same standard as their counterparts in other countries. The difficulty is that even for a basic, rudimentary training like that given in the volunteer force or the Lok Sahayak Sena, the Defence people think that 30 days are insufficient. In any case, if 30 days are insufficient for this elementary, basic military training here, I would suggest that another 7 days may be added. Let the Defence Ministry co-ordinate its activities with the Community Project Administration. Let the Defence Ministry call upon that Administration to bear the expenses of the 16 hours' additional training, because what we feel is that after 30 days' training, after expenditure of one crore of rupees on these one lakh of people, they simply go back to their villages, and there is no programme to utilise them. Of course, they take signatures and pledges. I understand that about 95 per cent. of the cadets have given pledges for national service. But mere taking of pledges won't do.

There must be, on the one hand, training for such national service. On the other, there must be a scheme for utilisation of these people in various Community and other projects. As regards privileges, the only one privilege is that the number one of the 500 can come to Delhi at Government expense on the Republic Day and attend the parade. There must be certain other privileges.

I had the privilege of attending the closing function of a camp. I requested the administrative officer of the Community Project and also some local officers to come there. We took the Commandant into confidence. Immediately after the camp, we divided all the cadets into those belonging to groups of villages and asked the Commandant to select the best and second best in each group. Then the Community Project Administration, which was having a 7-day camp thereafter took the best and second best from the different groups and gave them additional training, put fire-fighting equipment in their hands, put the village service organisation in their hands as also other items of project work.

Of course, we have done this in a particular project. But I would appeal to the hon. Ministers and to the officers in charge of the organisation to see that this is taken up on a nation-wide scale, because I believe that this is one of the measures that have been taken up in this House which could bring about an entire national reorganisation on the right lines. We can enthuse the entire nation. This would be a source of unity. We are having a sufficient number of Bills and other items for discussion here which tend to have disunity and disintegration in the country. Here at least is a Bill which could enthuse everybody and canalise our national energies into nation-building and into organising our manpower.

Therefore, I would request the Minister that instead of treating it as a half-hearted measure, instead of bringing this measure after experiments have been going on for three years, he should make this Bill such as to appeal to everybody and then to enthuse the country. This should be reorganised in such a manner that he has the people behind him.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Any further presentation of the picture might be left to other hon Members.

श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति शाह (जिला गढ़वाल पश्चिम व जिला टिहरी गढ़वाल व जिला बिजनौर उत्तर) : मैं आपको धन्यवाद देती हूं कि आप ने मुझे समय दिया ।

मेरे भाई सोचेंगे कि इस बिल पर स्त्रियों के बोलने का क्या काम है । लेकिन में श्रीमान् जी से पूछती हूं कि क्या स्त्रियां भारत

[श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति शाह]

की नागरिक नहीं हैं ? क्या उन के इस में भाग लेने में कोई हर्ज है, या उन के सम्बन्ध में कोई शंका है ?

उपाध्यक्ष-महोदय : यह सवाल तो हुआ ही नहीं, किसी ने शक तो किया नहीं, आप जवाब क्यों देने लगीं ?

श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति शाह : इस विधेयक में स्त्रियों का कहीं नाम नहीं है । उनका नाम न होने के कारण मैं सोचती हूं कि क्या उन के बारे में सोचा ही नहीं जाता ? क्या वह इस देश की नागरिक नहीं हैं ? मैं जानना चाहती हूं कि उनको उस में दाखिल किया जायेगा या नहीं ।

उपाध्यक्ष-महोदय : आप देखिये, आप को सब से पहले बुलाया गया, आप कैसे कह सकती हैं कि स्त्रियों को नहीं पूछा जाता ?

प्रतिरक्षा उपमंत्री (सरदार मजीठिया) : पहले नहीं, दूसरे नम्बर पर ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: An exception was made in the case of Shri U. C. Patnaik.

श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति शाह : इसलिये श्रीमान् जी, मेरा निवेदन है कि जो वालेंटियर फोर्स (स्वयं सेवी बल) स्त्रियों की बनाई जाय, उस में , जिस तरह से पुरुषों के लिये लिखा गया है कि उनकी आयु १८ से ४० वर्ष तक होगी और वह ४५ तक भी हो सकती है, उस तरह से स्त्रियों के लिये १४ से ३० वर्ष तक की आयु रक्खी जानी चाहिये । स्त्रियों का इस में भाग लेना आवश्यक है क्योंकि इस तरह से वे भी डिसिप्लिन (अनुशासन) सीखेंगी और हर तरह से मजबूत हो कर अपना बचाव कर सकेंगी । स्त्रियों में देशप्रेम भी पुरुषों से अधिक है यह मैं दावे के साथ कह सकती हूं ।

श्री भागवत झा आजाद (पूर्निया व सयाल परगना) : आप यह कह सकती हैं कि उन में पुरुषों के बराबर ही देशप्रेम है, यह नहीं कह सकती कि पुरुषों से अधिक है ।

श्रीमती कमलेन्दुमति शाह : मेरा यह मतलब नहीं है कि पुरुषों में देशप्रेम कम है, लेकिन वे लोग दिखावा ज्यादा करते हैं, स्त्रियां दिखावा कम करती हैं, वे ठोस कार्य करती हैं । जो ट्रेनिंग (प्रशिक्षण) होगी उस के विषय में भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये । नहीं तो यह होगा कि एक साल तो ट्रेनिंग होगी, बाकी साल वह ढीले पड़ जायेंगे । आगे ट्रेनिंग न होने की वजह से मैं समझती हूं कि जो सिखाया जायेगा या जो खर्च किया जायेगा वह सब मिट्टी में मिल जायेगा । इसलिये साल में कम से कम एक महीना या दो महीने ट्रेनिंग जरूर मिलनी चाहिये । मैं चाहती हूं कि इस चीज को आप को करना ही चाहिये ताकि जो कुछ वे लोग सीखेंगे वह भूलें नहीं ।

मैं ने केवल आप से दो मिनट मांगे थे, इसलिये मैं समाप्त करती हूं, और जो कुछ होगा वह मेरे दूसरे भाई कहेंगे ।

Shrimati Khongmen (Autonomous Distts.—Reserved—Sch. Tribes): I welcome this Bill which has been brought forward by the hon. Minister of Defence. I think we all agree that a nation worth its name should be well-disciplined, self-reliant and be of real use to the country. For that purpose, some kind of military training is necessary. This Bill aims at giving that kind of training, and in my opinion and belief, it is going to be even more popular than the Auxiliary Territorial Force, which it has replaced. Whereas the former Bill intended to impose compulsory liability for enrolment in the Territorial Army for certain categories of employees, namely Government servants, and employees of specified public utility concerns in selected age groups, this Bill seeks to impart elementary military training to the maximum number of civilians

with the object of inculcating in them a sense of discipline which is very important, but without any compulsory liability, as the hon. Minister stated. I understand that this scheme proposes to train about five lakhs of persons, a number that exceeds the population of the district that I come from by one and a half lakhs. The scheme also proposes to pay special attention to those living in the border areas. Coming as I do from an area bordered by three different foreign countries, I heartily welcome this particular Bill. The Bill provides opportunities to the people who live in those out-of-the-way, nevertheless very important and strategic, areas to learn the art of discipline and self-reliance.

My only complaint against this Bill is that a very important section of our population has been denied the benefit that this scheme is going to give. I always seem to disagree with the hon. Minister on one point, and that is, his attitude towards women. I had the unpleasent occasion to disagree with him two years ago when he wanted to exclude women from joining the Indian Administrative Service. Today again I regret to say that he has completely excluded women from joining the National Volunteer Force.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: There is no disqualification at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: No particular exclusion.

Shrimati Khongmen: If you read the Bill, you will find it. I may point out that the women of India today play a great and important part in building up the country. They are contributing their services in all spheres of life. In Andhra, eight Panchayats have elected women as Chairman. In Simla, the first woman Deputy-Commissioner has been appointed. Women in every country are connected with military organisations....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: But we need not go into the thing as to what women can do in this world. Let us confine our attention to this Bill.

Shrimati Khongmen: I do not want to go into the clauses at this stage. When I was reading the Bill, I was very happy that they have stated "citizens of India". I suppose it means that women are included—generally they are included in the term "men". But later on if you read the Statement of Objects and Reasons, you will find that "All able-bodied male citizens between the ages of 18 and 40 are eligible to join the National Volunteer Force". The word 'male' is stated here. I believe, therefore, that women have been excluded. If it is not so, I shall be very happy.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: She should be happy that women are not excluded in the actual clauses, though in the Statement of Objects and Reasons they might appear to have been excluded.

Shri Kamath: See objects to the Objects.

Shrimati Khongmen: In clause 5 it is stated—"Any citizen of India not below the age of eighteen years and not above the age of forty years may offer himself for enrolment as a volunteer...."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let us await the answer of the hon. Minister about this.

Shri Gidwani (Thana): That will save discussion by women members if the thing is set right now.

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): While it is concluded on all hands that what women can do is not possible for men to do, in this case....

Shri Kamath: And *vice versa*.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That question might be answered straight if there is a straight answer.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I raise a point of order? A few days

[Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava]

back when I referred to one of the Ministers and said that an administrator, woman behaves more sternly than a man, objection was taken by the hon. Minister and the Chair was pleased to point out that no special reference should be made by any Member to the special qualities of women. I beg of you not to kindly allow this type of discussion...

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This is exactly what I have done; I have asked for a straight answer.

Shri Tyagi: In this Bill the intention is to give training to men only.

Shri S. S. More (Sholapur): Is the intention embodied in the terms of the clauses? Whatever is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons will not become relevant when it becomes an Act.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That is all what the hon. Minister has said.

Shrimati Khongmen: Women should also be included in this. Women in every country are connected with military organisations. Even here in India during the war, many of our sisters volunteered their services. Even now we have the women's wing of the National Cadet Corps where we have so many young women and girls, and there is no reason why we should not have a wing for women in this scheme also.

The object of the Bill is not the defence but to kindle the spirit of discipline and self-reliance. I think women as much as men need this. The Scouts, the Girl Guides and the Bulbuls are doing very good work and in General Bhonsle's scheme I find that women and girls are taking an active part in the scheme and they are giving cautions and commands very efficiently. In the past women took an active part even in the fighting services. We had in India a corresponding Joan of Arc who commanded an army of men and did the work most efficiently. I may inform the House that during the Burmese invasion, in my part of the country when many of our men were killed, the women took up arms, took their bows and arrows and drove away the enemy from that part of the country. In the Far-East Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had organised the Rani of Jhansi Regiment. When we have this scheme of training for drill and discipline, I do not see any reason why women should be excluded. Moreover, this is not going to be a compulsory training. I also understand that this scheme, in addition to other things, is going to give elementary military training and also conduct literacy drives among all recruits. If that be so, may I ask who is more suitable for this kind of work? Probably women may be more useful in this aspect.

I hope the hon. Defence Minister, Shri Tyagi, will recall his broadcast on the eve of the Territorial Army Day on November 20, 1954.

When he said:

> "..though as a nation, India was wedded to peace and followed the policy of friendship and goodwill to all, India had to remain prepared to defend our hearths and homes, if the necessity arose. Hence, it was the duty of every Indian.."

I include women also in the term 'Indian'.

> "....to do his bit for the defence of the country. For this, we must build, as soon as possible, an adequate manpower...."

I interpret it to include 'womanpower' also.

> "....reserve of trained personnel who, in peace; should carry on their normal avocations, but during an emergency should be available for the service of the nation. The Territorial Army is intended to be such a reserve. Those who join this force are not

likely to be called up for military service except in times of emergency. I say this to reassure all prospective candidates that enrolment in this Force will not interfere with their normal civil avocations."

So, I appeal to the hon. Defence Minister to amend the relevant clauses of this Bill so that the women of our country may be able to take advantage of this training.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: *rose*

Mr. Deputy Speaker: I hope Shri Patnaik and Shrimati Khongmen would be taken as exceptions. Now, the hon. Members will confine themselves to the time-limit that we have imposed on ourselves.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: After a long time the hon. Minister has been good enough to bring forward this Bill in this House. There is a demand in the country for military training on a wide scale and it was very strongly voiced in this House also. Very recently, the Punjab Government adopted resolution in its legislature for this. There are other State Governments which wish that this should be introduced on a large scale. Seeing things round our frontiers and in our corners and also in the world, our Defence Minister rightly emphasised, whether it is the Dehra Dun military school or whether it is the Naga Hills or some other place in the south, that he relied more upon our moral force rather than on our military strength. Nonetheless, the fact remains that, if aggressors come, we have to be ready.

By no means do I mean that our army is in any way less efficient than the others. There are brave men for whom we have got respect. In this atomic age, wars have taken an entirely new shape and are fought on entirely new techniques. So, it all depends upon how we organise our second line of defence. We know that atomic war has, till now, probably no defence. We see in our country indiscipline among our young friends; it is growing. We must have some scheme to curb this sense of indiscipline. It is stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that this scheme has that end in view. It is also stated that it will help us in giving us a sense of security, self-reliance and national service.

I feel that this Bill is nothing but a routine affair. I agree that the objectives put in here are laudable but I feel that this will not go a long way to achieve what we wish in this country. It is proposed to train one lakh of people per year. It has also been stated here that it will be coordinated with the national extension service and other programmes. We know that in the Second Plan, the entire country will be covered by this extension service. The training of a lakh of people every year will in no way meet the necessities or the demands of the situation. It is merely a routine affair in the sense that it will not appeal to the masses in general and they will not feel enthused over it. I say so not in any way to belittle what has been done or what is sought to be achieved. We should have legislation which would cover all students and which would make provision for the military training of at least the students in the schools and the colleges. They are willing. So far as I can know their minds, they are only too eager to have this training. Provision are likely to be made in Punjab. The Bihar students are eager and I know that, if there is provision, they would have joined. Even leaving aside the non-students, there will be a vast number who will be willing. This Bill does not go far enough. It accepts the principle of national service, self-discipline, etc. The provisions here should be widened and we should have a target of much beyond this one lakh. Then, it will be a double blessing. Our country will be prepared for an emergency—God forbid—in case of a war or some such thing and secondly, it will also curb the indiscipline among the students.

[Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad]

The provisions here should be widened so far as the womenfolk are concerned. However disciplined and organised your menfolk may be, if they have to face an unorganised and indisciplined home, all that you do will be futile and fruitless. Therefore, I support what Shrimati Khongmen has said. There is the national discipline scheme of Shri Bhonsle and we see what women are capable of. So, we should readily agree to accept the suggestion of Shrimati Khongmen and include women also. With these words, I support this Bill. I welcome this Bill but I feel that it is a routine affair. Other features should be introduced in this Bill. That can be done by widening the scope and not by fixing the target at one lakh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Shri Kamath. The hon. Members should rise in their seats if they are eager to speak.

Shri Kamath: I had risen more than once.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the hon. Member is unsuccessful when he first rose, he should try again.

Shri Kamath: I always do, Sir,

I am racing against time and so, I shall merely state the points without elaborating them. I am glad that this Bill has been sponsored by the Defence Minister. I would only suggest to him that he should take care to see that the authority that is sought to be taken by this Bill and the various provisions here should not be harshly enforced or abused in practice. I would like the Minister to say that there would be no compulsion of any kind in any matter, whether it is for earthquake relief or flood relief work where a volunteer is asked to serve,. I want him to say that there would not be any compulsion and it would be purely voluntary service. In this connection may I invite his attention to clause 6 of the Bill wherein it is said: "while undergoing such training shall perform such duties". The meaning of the word "shall" is I suppose, knowing as I do.....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is compulsion so long as he is in training.

Dr. Katju: So long as he is in camp.

Shri Kamath: That is all right. May I then refer to the pledge that is embodied in this little brochure?

The Minister of Defence Organisation (Shri Tyagi): That is after the camp.

Shri Kamath: In this *Progress* of *the Lok Sahayak Sena* there is reference to the pledge.

Dr. Katju: That is a purely voluntary thing.

Shri Kamath: The pledge is: "I solemnly affirm that if I am called upon to serve my country I will respond to such call and make every endeavour to be of service, in whatever way I can." Then, here it is said that each trainee is to be encouraged to sign a pledge. I want to know whether this provision in this brochure is of any effect, if it is not sought to be made compulsory. A pledge can be made compulsory. It can be said, after all it is in the service of the country, so why not make it compulsory? A pledge need not be voluntary and it can be made compulsory. A voluntary may be asked to serve in any capacity. I am sure that is the object of this National Volunteer Force. However, young men—and, may I say, young women also—may be encouraged and also made to give a pledge—not an oath on affirmation, which is different—that they would serve their country as they grow up.

I would only invite the Minister's attention to one or two other aspects of this Bill. The punishment for misconduct or misbehaviour is provided in clause 8 of the Bill. I find there is no provision for any appeal. The trial is summary and the punishment is also summarily to be warded. There is no provision for any

appeal against those orders. I feel that some provision for an appeal should be made in the Bill.

Then, as regards trainers for these camps, I would earnestly request the Defence Minister to see that *ex* I.N.A. personnel should be enlisted for training work in these camps. There have been so many questions in this House and so many of my friends like Dr. Suresh Chandra, Shri Bhakt Darshan are interested in solving the unemployment problem of the *ex* I.N.A. personnel. The Minister has been content always with saying that the Government respects and honours these men. But their unemployment goes on unabated and there is no relief for these unemployed. I would, therefore, suggest that these *ex* I.N.A. personnel, who have faced the rigours of battle under very adverse conditions, might be usefully employed in these camps.

The National Discipline Scheme of General Bhonsle, former General of the I.N.A. and Chief Staff of Netaji Sobhas Chandra Bose, who has seen war, military life and military discipline in war, and peace has been referred to very favourably and sympathetically by my friends here. It is working very well in the Punjab, in PEPSU, in Delhi, in Bombay, in Saurashtra and in West Bengal also. I would suggest to the Minister that thought may be given to this matter and to see whether that scheme could not be dovetailed into this National Volunteer Force Scheme. If it is not possible, a separate Bill may be introduced to put it on a statutory basis—the National Discipline Scheme which is working very well in various parts of the country.

One last point, Sir, and I have done. This Force was originally called the Auxiliary Territorial Army, it was renamed as Auxiliary Territorial force and finally the National Volunteer Force. In Hindi it is now called the Lok Sahayak Sena. It should have been translated differently. "Auxiliary" perhaps means "Sahayak", but "National Volunteer" should be translated differently. It could have been called "Rashtriya Swayam Sevak". This is the correct translation in Hindi. I do not object to it, but that might perhaps import some other significance. That is why it is not adopted.

Then there is one other point. This Bill was introduced in this House last November. Luckily it has come up for discussion today after the intervention of the Prime Minister himself. Meanwhile a lot of expenditure has been incurred without the sanction of the House. Of course, we do not grudge that expenditure, but this sort of attitude to the House, and this habit is growing. This practice of incurring expenditure without the sanction of the House has been repeated again in this particular case. This Bill could have been disposed of last November. These two hours could have been easily found even in the last session so that Government need not have incurred any expenditure without the sanction of the House.

Lastly, I hope these volunteers will not be asked to work, particularly as it is said they will be asked to work in the community projects and development works, for the ruling Party. I have heard reports not about these volunteers, but about Gram Sevaks and Gram Sevikas being asked to work for Congress Party—the ruling Party—in the elections.

Shri B. D. Pande (Almora Distt.—North-East) They are not.

Shri Kamath: You may say so, but I have got different reports. I hope these volunteers will not be used for, what shall I say—I would not use strong words; I would have said 'ignoble purposes', but I shall not say that—that purpose at all.

Shri L. Jogeswar Singh (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I welcome this Bill. The Bill has imposed no compulsion and it has got the characteristic of a simple voluntary thing.

[Shri L. Jageswar Singh]

I want to touch upon only a few points. First of all I want to say that the provision relating to age must be changed. From 40 years it must be changed to 45. Some time back Shri Tyagi issued a circular to all Members of Parliament asking them to enrol themselves and become members of the training camps. But, because the required number was not available, the proposal was dropped. In that circular the age-limit was more than 45 and I was in that category. According to this Bill, I am not in that category. I want to become a volunteer and I would say that men like me should be included in this. Therefore, the age-limit should be raised from 40 to 45.

Another point is about the suggestion made by Shrimati Khongmen. I oppose her suggestion. Women cannot do anything in an emergency with babes in arms. For all intents and purposes it is not a feasible proposition. Therefore, I oppose her suggestion that for emergency purposes women should be recruited.

2 P.M.

Regarding payment of remuneration during the training period, I would suggest that those who are not able to afford the expenditure should be given the money to meet their expenses, because no person can work without any remuneration being paid. This is an important aspect which should be kept in mind, because the success of the scheme would to a certain extent depend upon this.

As far as possible the training camps should be located near the community project areas. Our community project areas are humming with national activity. So, if we open our camps near the community project areas this volunteer force will do a lot in promoting our nation-building programmes.

This is a purely voluntary scheme and there is no element of compulsion. It is also quite in keeping with the peaceful nature of our foreign policy. I, therefore, commend this Bill for the acceptance of the House.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan (Dindigual): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very happy indeed that the hon. the Defence Minister has brought forward this Bill before the House. It is a very important measure that we are discussing today. The object of the scheme as stated in the Statement of Objects and Reasons is—

> "For imparting military training to the members of the public with a view to inculcating among them a sense of discipline, security and self-reliance and interest in national service."

Now, the women of India are taking part in all the national services of this country and they also need a sense of discipline. While the training is called military training, the chief object, I see, is to give such training for bringing about discipline and patriotism and to make them take more interest in national service. I, therefore, feel that there is no reason why women are not included in the scheme. I do not wish to enlarge on that, because my hon. friend Mrs. Khongmen has already spoken about the work that women are doing and they should also be taken in such national schemes as the National Voluntary Force.

With regard to the training camps, as my hon. friend Shri Patnaik said, 500 in each camp for a month is too large a number. While I agree that at least a lakh of people should be trained every year, I feel that 500 in a camp may be rather a large number for them all to get the proper kind of training. Training is imparted only for one month. I feel it would be better if 300 are taken in each camp and more camps are started. I do not know what the financial commitment would be if the number is reduced from 500 to 300 and more

number of camps are to be run.

I am glad that the hon. the Defence Minister has already said that these camps will not be started in community project areas alone. While the community project and national extension service areas may be good because they may have more facilities than other areas, I feel that there should not be any hard and fast rule with regard to having these camps only in community project and national extension service areas. People who do not have either of these projects in their areas should be given a chance to have at least such camps, so that they may be enthused over such national work.

I also feel that the follow-up is not enough. After one month's training what happens to them? I do not know whether even records are kept of those people who have been training and whether they can be called up at any time in connection with their service to the country which I am sure they will be happy to give. Who keeps such records? I think it is a very important part of the scheme.

Shri Tyagi: Records are kept.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Not always.

Shrimati Ammu Swaminadhan: I am happy to know that records are kept, because I feel there should be some follow-up. Some of them may like to have military training in the territorial army and I feel they should perhaps be given a slight priority over these who have had no such training.

I am very happy that this Bill has come up now, because our young people want training in discipline and in civic sense. These are two very important things that our young people should have—and if I may say so—older people also I think for that reason, alone, if for nothing else such a scheme is very necessary. But I am not quite happy about the word "military" all the time, because I do not know whether that means giving training also in shooting and such activities as fighting. We have the Territorial Army; we have the National Cadet Corps and similar organisations. I do not know whether it is necessary to give actual training in fighting to these people. But if military training means that, I suppose it also has to come in. But the emphasis should be laid more on the teaching of discipline citizenship and civic among young and older people who come into this scheme.

I hope the hon. the Defence Minister will consider seriously the question of having smaller camps, not 500 in number, and more camps all over the country and I am sure there will be a large number of young people who will take advantage of this, because I feel that people need such training and they will certainly be very happy to have it. I am sure if women are made eligible they will certainly come forward in large numbers, as they have done in the case of the National Cadet Corps.

Pandit Thakur Das Bhargava: May I put one question at this stage? Shri Tyagi said that records are being kept. May I just ask him what kinds of records are kept and for what purpose? The whole training is finished in thirty days and there is no follow up according to this or the previous Bill.

Shri Tyagi: Lists are maintained and registers are kept with the District Magistrate of the place where the camps are held. The State Governments have been approached and they have agreed to call them up whenever they are needed. Such activities are always conducted by State Governments and therefore records are maintained by them.

ٹھاکر لکشمن سنگھ چارک (جموں
تتھا کشمیر) : جناب ڈپٹی اسپیکر
صاحب - میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحب
کے موجودہ بل اور جو اس کے مقاصد
انہوں نے دئے ہوئے ہیں ان کو
خوش آمدید کرتے ہوئے دو - چار باتیں

لیکر چلائے تو ہمیں بہت خوشی ہوگی -

آج کی تقریروں میں ایک دو صاحبان نے اور خاص طور پر میرے دوست کامت صاحب نے جو ایک لفظ پر اعتراض کیا ہے کہ اس میں ''شیل'' کا لفظ ہوگا -

میں جناب کے ذریعہ ہاؤس کے سامنے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر کسی کو خواہ وہ شہر کا ہو یا دیہات کا - اسکول کا لڑکا ہو یا کالج کا - ٹیسلین کا ''اے'' ''بی'' ''سی'' سیکھنا ہو تو سب سے پہلی ضروری چیز یہ ہے کہ وہ حکم ماننا سیکھے - اگر وہ حکم ماننے کے لفظ سے گھبراتا ہے تو میں نہیں سمجھ سکتا کہ ٹیسلین کا کوئی بھی آرگنائزیشن - خواہ وہ فوج کا ہو یا سکول کا ہو - کوئی بھی ٹیسلین کی سکیم ہو اس سے فائدہ ملک کے عام لوگوں کو نہیں پہنچ سکتا ہے- عورتوں کی طرف سے مانگ کی گئی ہے کہ ان کو بھی اس سکیم میں شامل کیا جائے - بہت اچھی بات ہے - لیکن میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ابھی یہ ہمارا نیا تجربہ ہے اس لئے اگر ہماری بہنیں چار پانچ سال کے لئے انتظار کر لیں تو کوئی حرج نہیں ہے - آج نیشنل کیڈٹ کور بہت اچھا کام کر رہا ہے - اے - سی - سی بھی بہت اچھا کام کر رہا ہے - یہ میدان بہت وسیع ہے اس میں کام

[تھاکر لکشمن سنگھ]

اس ہاؤس کے سامنے عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں -

جہاں تک اس نیشنل والنٹیر فورس کے دیش میں قائم کئے جانے کا تعلق ہے اس کے بارے میں مجھے یہ کہنا ہے کہ اس کی ضرورت ہم سب یوں محسوس کر رہے ہیں کیونکہ جہاں آزاد ہندوستان میں باقی کاموں کی طرف ہم نے توجہ کی وہاں اس شعبے کی طرف ہم پوری توجہ نہیں دے سکے - اس چیز کی ضرورت کافی عرصے سے محسوس کی جا رہی تھی کہ ہمارے سکول کالجوں کے نوجوانوں اور دیہاتی بھائیوں کو ٹیسلین سکھائی جائے اور اس کے لئے کوئی طریقہ نکالا جائے - یہ بڑی خوشی کا مقام ہے کہ اس ضرورت کو پورا کرنے کے لئے ہماری گورنمنٹ نے یہ موجودہ بل ہاؤس کی منظوری کے لئے پیش کیا ہے کیا ہی اچھا ہوتا اگر یہ بل آج سے دو چار برس پہلے آتا - مجھے یہ دیکھ کر بڑی خوشی ہوئی کہ اتنے جوش و خروش کے ساتھ اس ہاؤس نے اس بل کو ریسیو کیا ہے اور ہمیں سب کو اس بات کی بڑی خوشی ہے کہ بہت جلدی ہی یہ قانون کی صورت اختیار کر لیگا - جس جوش و خروش کے ساتھ اس بل کا یہاں پر خیرمقدم کیا جا رہا ہے اس جوش و خروش کے ساتھ منسٹری آف ڈیفنس اس کام کو اپنے ہاتھ میں

نہیں ہوگی لیکن انکو فوجی فنڈامینٹلس اچھی طرح سمجھ جائیں گے -

لیکن اس کے ساتھ ساتھ یہ بھی ضروری ہوگا کہ اس قسم کا کوئی ریکارڈ رکھا جائے کہ کون آدمی ٹریننگ پا چکا ہے - اور ہر سال اگر انہیں آدمیوں میں سے چند آدمی بلا لئے جائیں اور وہ بار بار ٹریننگ لیتے رہیں تو آپ کو یہ فائدہ ہو گا کہ آپ کو ان میں سے ہی انسٹرکٹرس مل جائیں گے - ساتھ ہی جب وہ دیہاتوں کو واپس جائیں گے تو کسی قدر وہ لوگ اپنی لیڈرشپ کو قایم کر سکیں گے - محض تسہلن ہی سکھا دی جائے یہ کافی نہیں ہے جب تک آپ یہ کوشش نہ کریں کہ انہیں نوجوانوں میں سے لیڈر پیدا کئے جائیں - جو دیہاتوں میں جاکر لوگوں کو آرگنائز کریں اور وہ لوگ کیمپوں میں جو سیکھیں اس کو جاری رکھیں -

میں نے ایک اور بات سنی ہے کہ فوج کی طرف سے جو انسٹرکٹر جاتے ہیں وہ سوا چند ایک علاقوں کے باقی علاقوں کی زبان نہیں جانتے ہیں اور اس لئے بڑی دقت پیش آتی ہے - اس سلسلہ میں میری عرض یہ ہے کہ جو آئی - ایم - اے - کے لوگ کام کے قابل ہوں - جو اس کام میں دلچسپی رکھتے ہوں - جن کو اس کام کا تھوڑا بہت تجربہ ہو - ان کو رکھ لیا جائے - نہیں تو پرانے فوجی کرتی - یہ ایک نیا تجربہ ہے - پتہ نہیں اس میں ہم کامیاب ہونگے یا ناکامیاب -

دوسری بات چند ایک ساتھیوں نے یہ کہی کہ اس میں لفظ میلیٹری رکھا گیا ہے - ہمارے پاس پکی فوج اگزیلری فورس بہت ہے - بھلا ہمارے لئے اور زیادہ ملیٹری کی کیا ضرورت ہے - اس بارے میں میں ہاؤس کے سامنے مؤدبانہ طریقہ سے یہ عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ اگر ہندوستان کی آبادی کے لحاظ سے دیکھا جائے تو ہندوستان کے پاس کافی فوج نہیں ہے - ہمارا بارڈر لداخ سے لے کر سندر تک پھیلا ہوا ہے -اگر اس کو پوری طرح سے دیکھنا ہے تو ہمارے پاس اتنی فوج نہیں ہے کہ ہم اس کی حفاظت کر سکیں - اور نہ ہماری مالی حالت اتنی اچھی ہے کہ ہم بہت بڑی فوج رکھ سکیں ایسی حالت میں ہمارے واسطے راستہ ہی کیا ہے سوائے اس کے کہ ہمارے پاس فسٹ لائن آف ڈفینس ہو - سیکنڈ لائن آف ڈفینس ہو اور تھرڈ لائن آف ڈفینس ہو - تھرڈ لائن آف ڈفینس بھی ایک اچھی فورس ہو سکتی ہے کہ وہ صاحبان جو خوشی سے مصیبت کے وقت اپنے ملک کی خاطر قربانی دینا چاہتے ہیں ان کو لے لیا جائے - اس لئے میں یہ سمجھتا ہوں کہ یہ جو ٹریننگ رکھی گئی ہے وہ ٹھیک ہے - بہت بڑھیا ٹریننگ تو

[ٹاکر لکشمن سنگھ]

ہے - کچھ عرصہ ہوا اس ہاؤس میں ایک کھلنے کا تسکشن بھی اسی بات پر ہوا تھا - اس وقت بھی میں نے عرض کیا تھا کہ کوئی ایسی کوشش کرنی چاہئے کہ کسی طرح سے جنرل بھونسلے اور آئی - این - اے - کے پرانے فوجی ہیں ان میں جو قابلیت- جوش اور ولولے ہیں ان کو کوآرڈینیٹ کرکے ڈفینس فورس کے لئے ان سے فائدہ اٹھایا جائے - ساتھ ہی ہندوستان اسکاوٹس آرگنائزیشن اور بھارت سیوک سماج والے بھی اس طرح کے کام کر رہے ہیں .. ہمیشہ سے ہندوستان میں جسمانی طاقت - فوجی طاقت اور قابلیت کی کمی کبھی نہیں رہی ہے - لیکن کمزوری جو اکثر دیکھنے میں آئی ہے و یہی رہی ہے کہ ملک میں کوآرڈینیشن کم رہا ہے - اپنی اپنی کوشش ہر ایک انسان کرتا ہے- سب اپنی اپنی ڈفلی الگ الگ بجاتے ہیں کہ ہمارا نام ہو - اگر ہم سب مل کر یہ کوشش کریں کہ ہندوستان کا نام ہو اور ہندوستان کی جتنی طاقتیں ہیں ان سب کو اکٹھا کیا جائے تا کہ کسی ایمرجنسی میں - خدا نخواستہ کوئی آفت ہندوستان پر آ جائے - اس وقت بہت بڑی فورس اکٹھا ہو جائے - تو ہمیں بڑی کامیابی مل سکتی ہے -

میں سمجھتا ہوں کہ ڈفینس منسٹری نے - نیشنل کیڈٹ کور نے جو اس علاقے کی زبان جانتے ہوں - ان سے یہ کام لیا جائے- یہ ضروری نہیں ہے کہ ریگولر فورس میں سے آدمیوں کو بھیجا جائے - ٹریننگ دینے کے لئے - اگر مدراس میں کام شروع کرنا ہے تو وہاں پر مدراس کی زبان جاننے والے آدمی بھیجے جائیں جو کہ دیہاتوں میں جاکر وہاں کے آدمیوں کو ٹریننگ دے سکیں - اس طرح سے کیا جائے گا تو ہمارا کام زیادہ کامیاب ہوگا -

اس کے علاوہ چند ایک باتیں اور عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں - جہاں ہم اس قسم کی ٹریننگ دے رہے ہیں وہاں ہم کو دو چار باتیں اور یاد رکھنی چاہئیں - ایک طرف تو آپکے ریپیمنٹیشن کا محکمہ ہے - جنرل بھونسلے کے ماتحت بھی بچوں کو ٹریننگ دی جا رہی ہے جہاں پر لڑکیاں اور لڑکے دونوں ہی ٹریننگ پاتے ہیں - ہم میں سے بہت سے ساتھیوں کو موقع ملا - ہم نے جاکر دیکھا - آئی - این - اے - کے سپاہیوں نے وہاں پر صحیح معنوں میں بچوں میں ایک جان بھر دی ہے - کوئی بھی اس اسکیم کو جاکر دیکھ سکتا ہے - وہ یہ بات ضرور سمجھ جائے گا کہ وہاں کے لوگوں میں ایک اسپرٹ پیدا ہو گئی ہے - یہ اسپرٹ ہی ایک ایسی چیز ہے جس سے ساری دنیا کا کام چلتا

اور اے - سی - سی - نے بہت بڑا کام کیا ہے - تقریباً منسٹری ہی ایک ایسا ادارہ ہے جو ان سب چیزوں کو اچھی طرح سے کوآرڈینیٹ کر سکتی ہے - اب سوال یہ رہ جاتا ہے کہ یہ کس طرح سے ہو - تو اس کے لئے یہ گورنمنٹ اور کمیٹیز فیصلہ کر سکتی ہیں کہ کس طرح سے اس پروگرام کو کوآرڈینیٹ کیا جائے - لیکن میں یہ ضرور عرض کرنا چاہتا ہوں کہ الگ الگ روپیہ خرچ کرنا اور اسکیم بنانا - ملک کے لئے اچھا نہیں ہوگا - اسلئے ایک کوآرڈینیٹڈ اسکیم بنانا زیادہ بہتر ہوگا -

[*English translation of the above Speech*]

Th. Lakshman Singh Charak (Jammu and Kashmir): Sir, I wish to point out a few things while welcoming the present bill moved by the Hon. Minister and the objects stated therein.

As regards organising the National Volunteer Force in the country, we have been feeling its dire necessity because since the time when India became free we have not been able to pay as much attention towards this as we did towards other aspects. It has been felt since long that a sense of discipline should be inculcated among the youth in schools and colleges and the villagers, and some programme should be chalked in this connection. I am very happy that Government have brought forward this before the Lok Sabha to meet this demand. It would have been still better had it been brought two or three years ago. I am glad that the House has so enthusiastically received the bill and that the bill would soon become the law of the land. It will add to our happiness if the Ministry of Defence shows the same enthusiasm in implementing the provisions of this bill. Some of the speakers today, especially my friend Shri Kamath, have objected to the word "shall". The primary lesson in descipline, whether it is to be imparted to a man from city or to a villager, to a school boy or a college student, is that they should learn to obey. If one is scared of the very mention of the word 'order' there is no hope of the people of the country benefitting by any scheme of inculcating descipline through any organisation, be it an educational institution or a military one, women have demanded that they should also be included in the scheme. It is a good idea. But I contend that because it is a new experiment, it would be better if ladies waited for four or five years. These days the working of the National Cadet Corps is excellent. Similarly Auxiliary Cadet Corps is also working excellently. But the field of the present scheme is very vast and we are notices in the sphere. Let us see whether we are successful in our endeavour or not.

Some of my friends have objected to the word 'Military'. They say that when we have the regular forces and an auxiliary force, what is the use of having more army. In this connection I humbly submit that if we take into account the population of India the forces we have, are not sufficient. Our borders extend from Ladakh to the sea coast. We have not sufficient forces to guard these borders, nor does our economic position allow us to have a big army. Thus we have no alternative but to have a first line of defence, a second line of defence and a third line of defence. The third line of defence can also be a good force consisting of persons who are prepared to lay down their lives for the country in times of emergency. I, therefore, contend that the training provided in this measure is useful. It would not be the right training but people would learn the judgments of military training.

[Th. Lakshman Singh Charak]

Moreover, it is also essential to maintain a record of persons who receive trainings. If some of those persons are called up to receive training every year it will be advantageous and we will have instructors from among them. Moreover when they return to their villages they will be able to establish their leadership. Mere inclucation of discipline is not enough, unless youngmen are trained who are able to lead the people, who can organise them and carry out the schemes in the camps.

I have heard that the military instructors who are deputed do not languages of many places and consequently difficulties arise. I would suggest that I.N.A. personnel who are inclined towards this work and are experienced should be deputed for this work, or this work may be assigned to old military hands who know the language of a particular area. It is not necessary that men from regular forces be deputed to impart training. Only men knowing languages spoken in Madras should be sent to the villages of that state to train the people. By adopting this method we can be more successful.

I wish to make a few other points as to what we should bear in mind while imparting training. In the Rehabilitation Department little boys and girls are receiving training under General Bhonsle's scheme. Some of us had a chance to see that and we appreciate that I.N.A. people have infused a real spirit in those children. Anybody may go and witness that such a spirit is essential for the progress every-where in the world. Sometime back we had a discussion on this subject in this House. During that discussion I said that we should make endeavours to coordinate the work, enthusiasm, and spirit of General Bhonsle and I.N.A. personnel and utilize them in defence forces. Hindustan Scouts organisation and Bharat Sewak Samaj are also working on the same lines. India has never lacked in physical and military strength and intellectual qualities. The only deficiency which has been observed is that there has been no coordination. Everybody works his own way and wants to get the credit. If we put in united efforts to win for India and to organise its inherent powers so that in emergency, we have an organised force then only can we achieve success.

I think that our Defence Ministry, N.C.C. and A.C.C. have done a great work. Defence Ministry is in a position to co-ordinate the work of all such organisations. The only question is how this can be achieved. The Government and cabinet can decide the programme for such co-ordination. But to prepare separate schemes and spend money on them is not useful. It is very necessary to have a co-ordinated scheme.

पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव : मैं डिफेन्स मिनिस्टर (प्रतिरक्षा मंत्री) डा० काटजू को मुबारक बाद देता हूं कि उन्होंने एक ऐसा बिल हाउस के अन्दर पेश किया जिस को सब लोग चारों तरफ से सपोर्ट (समर्थन) कर रहे हैं और लोगों के अन्दर इस को देख कर बड़ी खुशी है। इंडेपेंडेंस (स्वतन्त्रता) के बाद आज हम को एक ऐसे बिल को पेश करने का मौका मिला है जिस पर किसी को कोई एख्तलाफ नहीं है। पहले भी बिल आये हैं इस हाउस के अन्दर, लेकिन उन के अन्दर ऐसी चीजें थीं, जैसे आग्जिलरी फोर्स बिल वगैरह के अन्दर, जो आम लोगों के वास्ते पूरी तरह से काबिल कबूल नहीं थीं। यह ऐसा बिल आया है जिस की सब से बड़ी मेरिट (गुण) यह है कि हिन्दुस्तान के सब सिटिजैन्स (नागरिकों) के वास्ते है, यह सब बिरादरियों को एक करता है, ख्वाह वह अपने को मिलिटरी रेसेज (सैनिक जातियां) कहती हों या नान मिलिटरी रेसेज, उन सब को एक जगह मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग देना, उन में एक स्पिरिट (Eprit De Corps) [संगठन की भावना] पैदा करना, यह चीज दूर करना कि कुछ

इस कौम का है और फलां दूसरी कौम का, बाई इटसेल्फ एक ऐसी चीज है जो डा० काटजू को मुबारकबाद देने के लिये काफी है। जो चीज हम आर्मी में देखते हैं, जिस की हम रोज तारीफ करते हैं, उस को उन्होंने सिविल के अन्दर ला कर रक्खा है।

इस के अलावा यह कहना कि यह बिल सिर्फ पांच बरस तक काम करेगा, उसके लिये मैं कह सकता हूं कि मैं इस को इस बिल के अन्दर कहीं नहीं पाता हूं। मुझे तो यह नजर आता है कि यह पहला इंस्टालमेंट (किस्त) है अपनी किस्म का, और आगे चल कर मूमेंटम बढ़ेगा। क्योंकि मैं देखता हूं कि १८ से ले कर ४० बरस के मर्द और औरत इस में शामिल हैं। इस के यह माने हैं कि हजार के पीछे सिर्फ एक आदमी इस में शामिल है जो तादाद कि इस देश के लिये बहुत ही कम है। मेरी तो यह नियत थी, मैं यह चाहता था कि इस देश में कांस्क्रिप्शन (जबरदस्ती भर्ती) हो, लेकिन मैं वह भी जानता हूं कि इस देश में कांस्क्रिप्शन फिलहाल होना मुश्किल है, लेकिन फिर भी यह जरूरी है कि इस तरफ कदम बढ़ाया जाये। मैं जब स्विटजरलेंड गया तो मुझे पता लगा कि २४ घंटों की नोटिस पर औरतों और मर्दों की पांच लाख फौज मुल्क को बचाने के वास्ते वहां पर हर वक्त तैयार रहती है, उन के पास कोई रेगुलर फोर्स (नियमित बल) नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि हालांकि हम ने नानवायोलंस (अहिंसा) को अपनाया है, और हम रोज उस की बात करते हैं, अपने देश को बचाने के वास्ते कुछ ऐसा इन्तजाम हो कि २४ घंटों की नोटिस पर ५ लाख क्या, कम से कम एक करोड़ आदमी डिफन्स मिनिस्ट्री (प्रतिरक्षा मंत्रालय) के हुक्म पर आ कर मौजूद हो जाये। आइन्दा आने वाले जमाने में मुझे नहीं मालूम क्या क्या चीज होंगी, पता नहीं ऐटामिक एनर्जी (आणविक शक्ति) आ जाय या कोई दूसरी एनर्जी आ जाये और पता नहीं कैसे उस के खिलाफ हमारा डिफेन्स होगा, वह सब मेरे नुक्ते नजर के बाहर है, लेकिन फिर भी जरूरी है कि लोगों को हम इस के लिये तैयार करें कि वह किसी वक्त अपने मुल्क को बचाने के लिये आगे आयें। मुझे पता लगा है कि टैरिटोरियल फोर्स (प्रादेशिक बल) के लिये जो आदमियों की मांग थी उसके लिये १४४ परसेन्ट आदमी आये, इस के लिये और भी बहुत ज्यादा आदमी आने चाहिये थे। लेकिन आज लोगों के अन्दर इसके लिये ज्यादा जोश नहीं है। इसी लिये शायद आज डा० काटजू ने कहा कि यह चीज बिल्कुल वालेन्टरी (स्वयं सेवा) हो, किसी किस्म की कोई लाग लपेट न होगी मिलिटरी सर्विस के वास्ते कोई लायबिलिटी (दायित्व) या बाइंडिंग (बंधन) उनके लिये नहीं है। लेकिन मैंने श्री त्यागी से सवाल पूछा कि आप जो रजिस्टर रखते हैं, वह किस लिये रखते हैं? किस लिये यह फोर्स रक्खी जा रही है?

मेरी नाकिस राय में इस सारी फोर्स को रखने का मतलब यह है कि जब देश के अन्दर इमरजेंसी (आपात काल) हो, जब कोई खराबी पैदा हो या जब कोई मुसीबत आये, तो हमारे वालेंटीयर सब से आगे होकर उसका मुकाबला करें। इस वक्त आपने उनके लिए किसी किसम की लायाबिलिटी नहीं रखी है। मैं जानता हूं कि जो अगली इंस्टालमेंट आएगी, उसमें लायाबिलिटी की बात भी रखी जायेगी।

इस बिल के अन्दर जो दूसरी प्राविजंस (उपबन्ध) हैं वे एक से एक अच्छी हैं शुरू में ही आपने आफेंसिस (अपराध) और पेनेलिटीज (दण्ड) की प्राविजंस (उपबन्ध) रखी हैं। इनमें हमारे कामत साहब भी कोई बात नहीं पकड़ सके हैं एक बात को उन्होंने लिया है और उसको भी ज्यादा प्रेस नहीं किया। अगर कोई आदमी किसी डिपार्टमेंट (विभाग) में एजुकेशन (शिक्षा) पाने के लिये जाता है या

[पंडित ठाकुर दास भार्गव]

कुछ सीखने के लिये जाता है और उसको वहां पर डिसिप्लिन में रहने के लिये कहा जाता है तो यह ठीक ही है और इसका मतलब यह तो नहीं है कि वह अफसर को जा कर पीटना शुरू कर दे। तो ये जो आबलीगेशंस (दायित्व) प्रोवाइड की गई हैं ये लीस्ट (न्यूनतम) हैं। अगर आप सैल्फ-डिसिप्लिन को खैरबाद नहीं कहना चाहते तो आपको इन आबलीगेशंस को निभाना ही होगा। कामत साहब ने भी इस बात पर जोर नहीं दिया।

तो जहां तक इस बिल को पहली इंस्टालमेंट के तौर पर लाया गया है यह निहायत अच्छा है। आपने खर्च के बारे में भी कहा है कि कोई एक करोड़ रुपया खर्च होगा और आपकी तजवीज यह है कि इस रुपये को खजाने में से न लेकर इसका इंतिजाम ऊपर ऊपर से ही कर लिया जाये। आपने फाइनेंशल मेमोरेंडम (वित्तीय ज्ञापन) में लिखा है :

"which will be partly met by reducing non-essential equipment and personnel in the Territorial Army".

तो रुपया आप मांगते नहीं हैं और साथ ही साथ देश के अन्दर ऐसी अच्छी स्पिरिट लोगों के अन्दर पैदा कर देते हैं तो इससे बढ़कर और कौन सी अच्छी बात हो सकती है। मैं चाहूंगा कि डाक्टर साहब ने इस बार एक लाख की लिमिट रखी है और अगले साल जब वह दूसरा बिल लायें तो उसमें कम से कम पांच लाख की लिमिट तो रखें। आपने उस वक्त भी पांच लाख की बात कही थी जब आप पहला बिल लाये थे।

एक और बात का यहां पर जिक्र आया है और वह था स्काउट मूवमेंट (आंदोलन) का। भौंसले साहब ने भी एक मूवमेंट जारी की है जिस को कस्तूरबा निकेतन तथा दूसरी जगहों में लागू किया गया है। मैं अर्ज करना चाहता हूं कि यह जो सारी स्कीम्स (योजनायें) हैं इनको कोआर्डिनेट (समन्वित) किया जाना चाहिये और इन को अलग अलग नहीं रखा जाना चाहिये। मैं नहीं चाहता कि इनको बन्द कर दिया जाये लेकिन मैं यह अवश्य चाहता हूं कि इन को कोआर्डिनेट किया जाये। आप एक लाख के लिए कर रहे हैं और मैं चाहता हूं कि आप इसको बढ़ायें। मैं यह भी चाहता हूं कि आप तमाम स्कूल्स और कालिजिस में भौंसले साहब की स्कीम को चलायें और उन्हें अपनी एक्टिविटीज (कार्यों) को ही एक हिस्सा बनायें। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग स्कूलों और कालिजों में जारी कर दें।

मैं एक और बात की तरफ आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं। आज तक लोगों की यह शिकायत रही है कि उनको लकड़ी व लाठी के साथ मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग सिखायी जाती है। मैं अर्ज करता हूं कि थोथी बन्दूकों का या इस किस्म की दूसरी चीजों का जमाना चला गया है। मैं चाहता हूं कि जो मिलिटरी ट्रेनिंग उनको दी जाये उसके दौरान में उनको बंदूकों तथा दूसरे हथियारों से एक्वेंट (परिचित) कराया जाये। इस तरह से कोई भी चीज बाकी नहीं रह जानी चाहिये जिस से उनको वाकफियत न हो।

आपने इसमें ट्रेनिंग का पीरियड ३० दिन का रखा है यह भी मुनासिब है। पहले जो बिल आप लाये थे उसमें आपने एक रियायत रखी थी कि अगर कोई गवर्नमेंट एम्पलायी (सरकारी कर्मचारी) है या कुछ और किसी प्राइवेट सर्विस में हो तो उनकी तनख्वाह नहीं कटेगी न नौकरी से महरूम होंगे लेकिन उस तरह की कोई भी रियायत आपने इस बिल में नहीं रखी है। तो मैं चाहता हूं कि

अगली जो इंस्टालमेंट आए, उसमें ये सब चीजें हों। और वालन्टियरस के हकूक व जिम्मेवारी उसमें दर्ज हों—ऐसा गंजा नंगा बूचा बिल न हो जैसा यह मौजूदा बिल है।

इतना कह कर मैं डा० काटजू को इस बिल को पेश करने के लिये फिर मुबारिकबाद देता हूं।

Dr. Suresh Chandra (Aurangabad): Everybody in this House has welcomed the object of this Bill. I feel that though the object is laudable, the Bill has been brought in a loose and haphazard manner. I have the feeling, unfortunately, that the Government here is in a mood to bring all kinds of legislation without giving proper thought to the consequences of the implementation of those Bills.

In this Bill, the object is very laudable. Nobody can deny that there is need for inculcating a sense of discipline, security and self-reliance and interest in national service. It is very essential and something of this kind is also being done in the N.C.C. in the schools and colleges. As far as this Bill is concerned, it is too vauge, it is not clear. This National Volunteer Force Bill is for imparting military training to the members of the public. I understand that there is no provision for imparting real military training to the people. This phrase "military training" does not seem to be very correct. Therefore, I would like to know exactly from the Minister whether it is provided in this Bill to give real military training to the national volunteers who will be recruited.

Other Members, including Shrimati Swaminathan, pointed out the importance of civic sense and discipline in the country; No country worth the name can maintain its honour and its independence and security without inculcating discipline, civic sense and love for the country. These things are very very important. I know in Germany they had the Hitler Youth Movement, which was built on fascist lines. But, it was this movement which in the last stage of the fight for their independence stood by Hitler. Even the military people had lost their courage and were almost in a defeatist mood. It was the Hitler Youth Movement which fought in the streets of Berlin with courage and discipline. Therefore, there is a great need for discipline and civic sense, but it is necessary to have some kind of a co-ordinated measure for this purpose. Simply by passing this Bill and bringing some people together without giving them proper training. I think the purpose will not be served. This will not serve the purpose which is sought to be served by this Bill. We already know that N.C.C. is a very good scheme, but, unfortunately, with the little experience I have, I find that even our military officers who go there for imparting training do not take it very seriously. So, the enthusiasm which it seeks to create in boys and girls is not there. Therefore, before we pass the National Volunteer Force Bill or start some other training services, it is necessary that whatever we have got in this country must be strengthened and made efficient. I am sure there will be no use in passing this Bill or having these camps. By this you will not be able to give that kind of discipline which we need in this country.

I think this is not time to bring in women also in this Bill. To start with, let us have only men to whom discipline and love for the country may be imparted; then only we can think of women. Otherwise, there is the chance of creating indiscipline among the men. I would request the Minister to give an answer to these questions. Let us take this very seriously and not for the sake of showing to the people that we are having a National Volunteer Force, N.C.C. and so on without any coherence and co-ordination. I would like that there should be one scheme and that scheme should be implemented in a

proper manner, so that the effect of that scheme is realised by the people of his country. Simply saying that every able-bodied citizen may volunteer will have any meaning, unless it is taken very seriously.

Dr. Katju: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I shall be very short. My hon. friend Shri Kamath said that the Lok Sahayak Sena should have been started after this Bill had been passed. Hon. Members will notice that this Bill was introduced in the House as early as September, 1955.

Shri Kamath: That is what I said.

Dr. Katju: But for the congestion of work, this would have been passed. I was myself anxious that it should be gone through.

So far as the point taken by Dr. Suresh Chandra is concerned, he may take it from me that we want to make this organisation and this force, the Lok Sahayak Sena as efficent as we possibly can. I shall ask him to take the trouble of visiting the next camp which may be nearest to his place of residence and spend a little time there. Then, I am sure he will from the judgment that the training is good, is keen, is enthusiastic and the people who wish to take part in it wish to take advantage of it as much as possible. It is military training in the sense that they are taught drill, shooting, marching and there is military life for one full month, all the 24 hours.

I should like also to say that the Bill does not contain any limit as to numbers. I am hopeful that if this succeeds and if there is a general desire to extend the number from one lakh to two or three lakhs, this House will certainly provide the funds so that it may be carried on. An hon. Member suggested that the size of the camp should be reduced. That would not be possible. We want to have community life; we want to have a general organisation. Five hundred is about the number.

I will not say much about the propriety of including women. That is a matter on which opinions can differ. I think the correct solution was pointed out by Dr. Suresh Chandra that we just make a beginning and wait and see how that fares. Please remember that after the age of 22 or 23, generally women become householders and then they have the added domestic responsibilities. There are babies and children to look after. I do not want to complicate matters. If our experiment succeeds, if there is a general desire, it can be done. There is no harm. It is important to remember that the number of girls' institutions is increasing and girls' colleges are increasing. I notice with my own eyes that girls are very keen to enrol themselves as girl guides and they do very well there. That is an outlet for their military energy.

So far as the pledge is concerned, this is an absolutely voluntary pledge. I do not want to say anything. I wonder whether it has got any particular compulsory meaning in it. It is really a pledge which says, I solemnly say, if I am called upon to serve my country—where, when that is all left indefinite—I will respond to such call and make every endeavour to be of service in whatever way I can.

Shri Kamath: Very vague.

Dr. Katju: That is very vague. It is not part of the Bill. It has just a sort of a moral persuasive effect about it.

Some other points were taken and we shall deal with them when the various amendments come along. But, I should like to assure generally that the object is to make the organisation run as efficiently as we can. Deliberately the Act is general so that we may be able to make rules from time to time as our experience grows and we receive suggestions from the people interested. Shri Kamath raised a minor point about punishments. I may inform him that it is proposed in the rules to provide for an appellate authority: not a writ in the Supreme

Court, but an appeal from one military authority to a superior military authority.

I will not take the time of the House any further. I hope the House will proceed to consider the Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the constitution of a National Volunteer Force for imparting military training to citizens of India, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2—(*Definitions*)

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I beg to move:

Page 1, line 16—

add at the end:—

"or any other officer or office-bearer of the Lok Sahayak Sena selected by the appropriate authority from among the volunteers"

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 1, line 16—

add at the end:—

"or any other officer or office-beared of the Lok Sahayak Sena selected by the appropriate authority from among the volunteers."

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Shri Tyagi: What about those amendments which have been given notice of by Dr. Katju?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Nobody says that he moves.

Shri Tyagi: They may be taken as moved.

Dr. Katju: They are purely verbal.

Shri Kamath: They have to be moved and accepted by the House. They have not been moved.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no amendment by Dr. Katju to clause 2.

Shri Tyagi: I refer to these amendments which have been given notice of by the Minister.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: They will have to be moved.

Dr. Katju: Clause by clause?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Clause by clause they will have to be moved.

Dr. Katju: You have not yet reached that stage?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Not so far.

Clause 3—(*Constitution of the National Voluteer Force*).

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Hon. Members who have already spoken will only move the amendments.

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 3—

add at the end:

"for the purpose of imparting military training to the members of the public with a view of inculcating in them a sense of discipline, security, self-reliance and interest in national service."

I seek to incorporate in this clause what is contained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I have taken this bodily from the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I hope the hon. Minister cannot have any reasonable or valid objection to this amendment. It only seeks to incorporate his own statement in this clause.

Dr. Katju: This is mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. I think it should not come into the Bill itself because the preamble says that the object is to impart military training. I am very sorry, I am unable to accept the amendment.

Shri Kamath: Objection on merits?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 3—

add at the end:

"for the purpose of imparting military training to the members of the public with a view to inculcating in them a sense of discipline, security, self-reliance and interst in national service."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 4— (*Establishment of Camps*)

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Clause 4. Are there any Government amendments?

Dr. Katju: No.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Ahy other amendment being moved?

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiapur): I have an amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: He can move it. He has not so far spoken. He can also speak for five minutes.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I beg to move: Page 2, line 6—

add at the end:

"Such camps shall be set up at convenient places and wherever possible in the vicinity of Community Projects, N.E.S. Blocks and educational institutions."

I welcome this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The Bill has already been welcomed and decision taken that it may be considered.

Shri D. C. Sharma: But, I must say that this Bill suffers from confusion of thought and confusion of aims. I have been asking myself this question whether this Bill is going to have a new variety of boy scouts or a new variety of seva samiti or a new variety of voluntary agency. I have found that in this Bill, there is nothing which can enthuse the Indians so far as the aimes are concerned.

Shri Raghubir Sahai: On which amendment is the hon. Member speaking?

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have been given five minutes and I am going to make use of those five minutes to the best of my advantage, not your advantage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is one thing I might bring to the notice of the hon. Member. If the hon. Members who have amendments to their credit or in their names help us in going through the second stage hurriedly, then we might take up all those general things in the third stage, but so far as amendments are concerned, we will have to confine ourselves to the amendments.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I shall resume my speech in the third reading stage, but what I mean to say is that the average expectation of life in India has increased during the last ten years or so, and it is increasing. Therefore, I think the age limit of 40 has been put in accordance with the calculation that prevailed so many years ago. I would therefore say that the age limit should be increased.

Dr. Katju: I am unable to accept it. The age of 40 is really an extended age for this purpose.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 6—

add at the end:

"Such camps shall be set up at convenient places and wherever possible in the vicinity of Com-

munity Projects, N.E.S. Blocks and educational institutions."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 4 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6— (*Duties of volunteers*)

Shri Raghubir Sahai: I beg to move:

Page 2—

after line 17, *add*:

"Provided that his services may be requisitioned in times of emergency such as flood, earth-quake or disturbed condition of law and order in an affected area."

In support of this amendment of mine, I would like to say that until and unless we make use of the services of a volunteer who has been given training for 30 days in a camp, it would not be proper to set up such an organisation and to incur so much of cost. The object with which this Bill has been introduced has been hailed by every one of us. It is to inculcate self-discipline amongst the people of this country. We know to our regret that although as a nation we may posses very many virtues, national discipline is not one of our virtues, and I believe the hon. Defence Minister introduced this Bill with a view to create that sense of discipline in our nation. It is really a very laudable object. I wish that when our adults and young men have been given this kind of training in those camps, their services are utilised. We know to our regret that in times of emergencies—and so many emergencies occur in our country; there are floods, there are earth-quakes, there are disturbances of law and order—our people find themselves helpless. They find themselves quite at sea with the consequence that the period of distress increases. Where will be the harm if these trained people are requisitioned and are allowed to work there?

I was simply amazed when the learned Defence Minister said that he did not want to introduce any sense of compulsion. The compulsion is in the sense that they would not be called in for military services. If a country invades us, these volunteers may not be called. That I can understand, but in times of emergency if their services are requisitioned is that compulsion? As my hon. friend Shri Charak said in any enforcement of discipline, there is some amount of compulsion and if after this training you do not want to make the services of these young men available for meeting emergencies, then I do not know for what purpose you are training them. There should be such a definite provision.

Supposing you send for those people to meet and face an emergency and some of them do not turn up, do not punish them. If they can offer an excuse, do not punish them. When a notice comes from the Government or from the military department after they have obtained this training, there would be very few people who would be prepared to disobey that notice. So, I wish that the hon. Minister consider the feasibility of accepting this amendment.

One more point and it is this. In U. P. some years back a movement known as Prantiya Raksha Dal was established. I suppose the hon. Defence Minister was then our Law Minister in U.P. and during his time this scheme was started. That generated at lot of enthusiasm in that province and we were really grateful to the Government for having introduced that scheme, but to our regret we find that the entire Prantiya Raksha

[Shri Raghubir Sahai]

Dal scheme has gone to dogs now. Why? Because we did not follow it up. We did not introduce measures to utilise the services of those people. I wish the same sort of experience may not be repeated in the case of this laudable Bill. Therefore I commend my amendment.

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

Page 2—

after line 17, *add*:

"Provided that such duties or such obligations shall not be inconsistent or at variance with the purposes for which the force has been constituted."

This is by way of abundant caution. I am aware that standards have been very high among the officers and other ranks of our armed forces though there have been a few disconcerting incidents in recent years, but we have heard complaints in the civil services in recent times that some of them employ their subordinate officials for domestic and private work. This should be sternly discountenanced. I hope this will not be one of the obligations or duties that the trainees would be called upon to perform while undergoing the training and that is why I have suggested this amendment.

Before I sit down I would like to oppose emphatically the amendment moved by Shri Raghubir Sahai; particularly the last part of the amendment is a very dangerous suggestion, *viz.*, "in a disturbed condition of law and order in an affected area". This will also lead to much abuse of authority, and I am sure many of the trainees or volunteers would certainly not like to work under such conditions, and they would certainly resist or oppose their employment in conditions where law and order, according to Government, have been disturbed.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 17—

add at the *end*:

"Volunteers who give the undertaking for National Service, shall be liable to be called up for such service if and when notified by the appropriate authority".

My amendment is different from that of Shri Raghubir Sahai in this respect that I suggest that those who give the undertaking for national service shall be liable to be called up for such service if and when notified by the appropriate authority. I beg to add that after giving them training and after they volunteer and give a pledge for national service, there must be some obligation on their part to come and render that national service in emergencies and for other purposes when they are called upon by the appropriate authority. I hope the Minister will please accept it.

Dr. Katju: I am sorry, I am unable to accept either of the amendments. The guiding rule is the voluntary nature and I submit whether it is a service for humanitarian purposes or natural calamities, we must trust the good sense and the patriotic devotion of the volunteers as well as of other citizens who may volunteer for that purpose.

So far as Mr. Kamath's amendment is concerned, I submit it is military training and the duties are prescribed. The rules will be there and if the rules are not properly observed, then there will be punishment to follow.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2, line 17—

add at the end:

"Volunteers who give the undertaking for National Service, shall be liable to be called up for such service if and when notified by the appropriate authority".

The motion was negatived

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2—

after line 17, *add*:

"Provided that such duties or such obligations shall not be inconsistent or at variance with the purposes for which the force has been constituted."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2—

after line 17, *add*:

"Provided that his services may be requisitioned in times of emergency such as flood, earthquake or disturbed condition of law and order in an affected area."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 6 stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6 was added to the Bill.

Clause 7.— (*Discharge*)

Shri Mulchand Dube (Farrukhabad Distt.—North): Clause 7 reads as follows:

"Every volunteer shall be entitled to receive his discharge from the Force on the expiration of the period for which he was enrolled, but may, prior to the expiration of that period, be discharged from the Force by such authority and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed."

My submission is that there should be no discharge after the lapse of one month for which he may be enrolled for training in camp because if that discharge is there, there is no possibility of there being a refresher course or a follow-on course; that, if a volunteer, after having received training for one month, is allowed to go back home and to follow his ordinary pursuits, the result will be that the training that has been given to him would be absolutely wasted. Therefore, I think it is absolutely necessary that the discharge should not be there and the volunteer should be called upon for refresher course every six months or so.

There is another point to be remembered. In case there is discharge there would be difficulty and we may not be able to call those volunteers in case of emergency. I was reading the Encyclopaedia Britannia with regard to this and I found they have a similar Act passed in 1863. I am quoting from it:

"A new Act, Volunteers Act, 1863, was soon passed, the most important provision of which was that apprehended invasion should constitute a sufficient reason for the Government to call out the volunteers in lieu of the old condition which required the actual appearance of the enemy.

This was again modified in 1900 during the South African War by a further enactment allowing the authorities to call them out at times of imminent national danger and great emergency."

This was provided there in the very Act itself. But here the hon. Defence Minister seems to think that it should depend on the goodwill of the volunteers. My submission is that so long as we do not have the law, you will not be able to call them out and, therefore, this provision should be entered in this Bill and I hope the hon. Minister will think over this because in case of national emergency it would be absolutely necessary for him to make an enactment and so long as the law is not there, it would be impossible for him to call the volunteers. So my submission is that it is absolutely necessary that this provision should be there in the law.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I beg to move:

Page 2—

after line 22, *add*:

"Provided that those persons who have signed the pledge for National Service shall be suitably reorganized for such service."

This is more or less to the same effect. Of course, the hon. Minister has already given his reply that there is no element of compulsion which is, more or less, in line with the speeches of the Defence Minister on Buddhist principles and Sanskrit and all that. I would respectfully submit that when you train a lakh of people every year at the expense of one crore of rupees per year, you must have some provision to call them upon, particularly that section which has given you a pledge for rendering national service. Here you take pledges and, at the same time, you say that you depend upon their goodwill for giving their services. I would submit that it will be in the interest of the tax-payer who foots the bill for all the money that is being spent on the National Volunteer Force not to agree with the hon. Minister who says: we depend upon their goodwill only. We should have some provision in law to call them up and make them render national service in emergencies as well as for developmental work. It will be necessary in the interest of our Five Year Plan, it will be in the interest of our Development Blocks and it will be necessary to fight floods, epidemics and other things and I am sure that simply because the hon. Minister thinks that we could rely upon the goodwill of people, we should not allow our money to be wasted on this National Volunteer Force if the nation cannot insist upon some return for the money spent on that.

Dr. Katju: The two things are quite distinct. So far as Mr. Patnaik's amendment is concerned, he proceeds upon the existence of a pledge. The pledge does not form part of the Bill and it is purely on a voluntary basis. I do not want the Bill to be encumbered by the result of what has happened after the signing of the pledge. The pledge may or may not be signed. As Mr. Kamath has pointed out, the pledge is only some sort of persuasive effort.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: Why not define it?

Dr. Katju: So far as the remarks of my hon. friend, Mr. Dube, are concerned, it really amounts to this: make an enrolment, prepare a roll and then keep it indefinitely for years and years. When you enrol a man for one month, you have got to finish, you have got to put an end and when you enlist a man for one month, you give him a discharge for the next month. That necessarily follows. There is no question of his being dispensed with. Therefore, we must allow the clause to stand as it is.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 2—

after line 22 *add*:

"Provided that those persons who have signed the pledge for National Service shall be suitably reorganized for such service."

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 7 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 9—(*Offences and Penalties.*)

Dr. Katju: I beg to move:

Page 2, line 41—

for "punished" *substitute* "punishable".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are other amendments also.

Dr. Katju: I do not want to move them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Let me understand this. There are amendments Nos. 3, 4 and 5.

Dr. Katju: I have moved amendment No. 3. It is not necessary to move amendments Nos. 4 and 5.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

Page 2, line 41—

for "punished" *substitute* "punishable".

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

Page 3—

after line 3, *add*:

"Provided that no action shall be taken for recovery of the fine, where the volunteer punished under sub-section (1) has served the term of imprisonment in default of payment of the fine."

It is self-explanatory and I do not wish to elaborate this particular theme. The hon. Defence Minister was good enough to say in the course of his speech earlier that when a fine is imposed, it does not mean that if there is imprisonment in default of fine, that fine will not be realized. That is what I understood him to say. But may I request him to see that so far as this particular Bill is concerned we are dealing with young volunteers, young trainees who may not have properties of their own. And if you want to recover the amount, it will be recovered from their parents or guardians. I do not know from whom they will recover the fines imposed.

3 P.M.

May I also tell him that it is not always true that though the person may undergo imprisonment in default, the fine is always recovered or tried to be recovered? I myself was sentenced some years ago, in 1941, and I was awarded ten months' imprisonment plus Rs. 200 fine, and in default, two months. I refused to pay the fine. The British Government did not recover the fine from me by any means at their disposal. I underwent another two months' imprisonment, and I came out without any loss of money.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That Government might have been particularly generous to Shri Kamath. Otherwise, the general law of the land would have taken its course.

Shri Kamath: I would request the Minister to be generous with our national volunteers, because they are our own volunteers who will serve the country. He should be generous to them, and not try to mulct them of their little money that they may have got. And where a person undergoes imprisonment in jail, the fine should not be recovered.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

Page 3—

after line 3, *add*:

"Provided that no action shall be taken for recovery of the fine, where the volunteer punished under sub-section (1) has served the term of imprisonment in default of payment of the fine."

Dr. Katju: May I meet my hon. friend Shri Kamath half way? We shall bear this in mind when we frame the rules, and we shall provide that in suitable cases, the recovery of the fine may be dispensed with. But let the Bill stand as it is.

Shri B. D. Pande: I have a small amendment to this clause.

I beg to move:

Page 2, line 42—

for "fifty rupees" *substitute* "thirty rupees".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved:

Page 2, line 42—

for "fifty rupees" *substitute* "thirty rupees".

Shri B. D. Pande: My object in moving this amendment is that the amount of fine should not frighten the young boys, especially in the rural areas, who are very poor. But the Minister has since explained that the fine of Rs. 50 will not be imposed at once, and that the actual fine may be less than this.

What I want is that everybody should be given military training. We have given franchise nearly to 19 crores of people, but we are giving military training only to about one lakh.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member was only speaking on his amendment and the question whether the fine should be Rs. 50 or less, and therefore, he should confine himself to that, so far as the present stage is concerned.

Shri B. D. Pande: My main object in moving this amendment is that the young people, especially in the rural areas, should not be frightened by the fine. Especially in the border areas, such as the ones from where I come, every person should be given military training. We, hill people, are steeped in military instincts. We have been fighting among ourselves for our hearth and home, and if we are not disciplined we may again fight amongst ourselves. The Dogras, the Garhwalis, the Kumaonese, and the Nepalese are the best elements in the Army. I want that their descendants also should be trained in military discipline, so that they may do what the country needs of them.

I wanted to be a jamedar in 1906, but I had attended the Congress at Banaras....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The hon. Member should confine himself....

Shri B. D. Pande: I want to give just one little anecdote.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: We can listen to that career sometime afterwards.

Shri B. D. Pande: When I wanted to join as a jamedar, I was told, 'You attended the Congress there; therefore, you cannot join as a jamedar.'. Thus, even jamedarship was denied to me. Then, I had to fight the Britisher and turn him out of the country.

Our people should be trained in discipline, so that they could fight for their own country. That is the object of my amendment. I wanted that barrack imprisonment should be imposed instead of fine. But the Minister has since explained that it may not necessarily be Rs. 50 fine, and it may be even less. So, I would beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I shall put the Government amendment to vote.

The question is:

Page 2, line 41—

for "punished" *substitute* "punishable".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now, I come to amendment No. 14. Does the hon. Member Shri Kamath want to press it?

Shri Kamath: In view of the Minister's assurance—I hope he will honour it—I beg leave of the House to withdraw my amendment.

Shri K. K. Basu (Diamond Harbour): It is a pledge.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to with draw his amendment?

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 *as amended, was added to the Bill.*

Clause 9.— (*Liability for causing loss etc.***)**

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are some Government amendments to this clause, namely amendments Nos. 6 and 7.

Dr. Katju: I am not moving them,

Shri Kamath:. I have a small amendment to this clause, namely amendment No. 15.

I beg to move:

Page 3 *after* line 16, *add*:

"Provided that the loss of, or damage to the property may be permitted by the prescribed authority to be made good in cash or kind".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment moved.

Page 3—*after* line 16, *add*:

"Provided that the loss of, or damage to the property may be permitted by the prescribed authority to be made good in cash or kind".

Shri Kamath: This amendment seeks to permit a volunteer to make good the loss or damage to property in cash or in kind. Suppose, he breaks a chair or something like that, he must be permitted to make good the loss, or bring in another chair in its place, and not necessarily be fined; if he could bring another chair, he should be permitted to do so. This is a very simple amendment, and I do not think it can evoke any opposition from Government.

Dr. Katju: May I just point out to my hon. friend Shri Kamath that this amendment is really not necessary? I like it myself, but the proceedings to recover the liability commence only when the person concerned has refused or failed to deliver the amount assessed. It has been provided in clause 9—I am reading lines 11 to 13 on page 3 of the Bill—

"..and where the amount thereof as determined by the prescribed authority is not paid within the time allowed, it shall, on application made by the prescribed authority.....".

So, it is only when it is not made good that the question of starting proceedings will arise.

Shri Kamath: But that does not cover the second part of my amendment. He should be allowed to make good in kind also.

Dr. Katju: There is no question of 'kind'-ness about it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Then, the question will arise as to who will determine whether the article is of the same quality or not.

May I put this amendment to vote?

Shri Kamath: It is not necessary. I seek leave of the House to withdraw it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Member leave of the House to withdraw his amendment?

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

The amendment was, by leave, withdrawn.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 9 stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9 was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 —(*Presumption as to certain documents***)**

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

(i) Page 3, lines 18 and 19—*omit* "purporting to be"

[Shri Kamath]

(ii) Page 3, lines 21 and 22—

omit "without proof of the signature or appointment of such officer".

I do not know why these words should remain in the clause, and why we should not insist on a certificate actually signed by the prescribed officer, and further, there should be evidence or proof of the signature of the officer. I do not mean to say that there might often be cases of forgery or things like that but certainly, by way of abundant caution, in which my hon. friend certainly believes as a great lawyer, I think he will agree that to provide against any kind of malpractices, we should insist on a certain certificate properly signed, and later on if necessary, there should be proof of the signature of such officer.

My amendments cover these points, and I hope the Minister will accept them.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendments moved:

(i) Page 3, lines 18 and 19—

omit "purporting to be".

(ii) Page 3, lines 21 and 22—

omit "without proof of the signature or appointment of such officer".

Dr. Katju: These amendments also are really not necessary, because they will make the proceedings much too cumbersome. Supposing a sanction is granted under one of the provisions of the Criminal Procedure Code, to institute a suit, the magistrate never requires proof of the signature of the secretary or the under-secretary. The signature purports to be that of that officer. It is a simple proceeding. You produce a paper. If that paper has got a signature that purports to be the signature of the prescribed authority, a brigadier or whoever it is, the court takes it for granted that the whole thing is quite clear. If it is a case where the signature is doubtful, and the point is specifically raised, then it may be gone into. Otherwise, the result of my hon. friend's amendment will be that we shall have to call the officer, from goodness knows where, to prove the signature, and hold up the proceedings for days and days. I am unable to accept the amendments.

Shri Kamath: Am I to understand that documents produced in a court of Law are taken for granted and the signature is not required to be proved at all under the Evidence Act?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There are certain cases where it has to be taken for granted.

I shall now put these amendments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

Page 3, lines 18 and 19—

Omit "Purporting to be"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 3, lines 21 and 22—

Omit "without proof of the signature or appointment of such officer"

The motion was negatived.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 10 stands part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10 *was added to the Bill.*

New clause 10A.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I have an amendment for a new clause, Clause 10A. I beg to move:

Page 3—

after line 22, *insert*:

"10A. *National Service Programme.*—The appropriate authority shall make provision for

training the Lok Sahayak Sena personnel for national service in developmental activities as well as for service during floods, famines, epidemics, fire-havoc and other emergencies".

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, it has been stated that these people ought to be utilised for national service. But there is nothing to indicate that there should be a national service programme. We have learnt elsewhere that the Defence Minister thinks that one month is absolutely necessary for the basic elementary military training and that he can make no provision for training for national service. So I suggest that special training should be given to the cadets for service in emergencies, developmental activities as well as during times of floods, famines, epidemics, fire-havoc etc. either by increasing the period of training by one or two weeks more or by inducing the Community Project Administration or some other organisation to take up the additional burden of a few days' more training. I hope the hon. Minister will accept this amendment.

Dr. Katju: I am very sorry I am unable to accept the amendment. It really changes the Bill and goes out of the purview of the present Bill. My hon. friend is talking here of developmental activities and many other things. That requires a different organisation or expansion of this organisation. So it will go outside the purview of this Bill.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

Page 3—

after line 22, *add*:

"10A. *National Service Programme.*—The appropriate authority shall make provision for training the Lok Sahayak Sena personnel for national service in developmental activities as well as for service during floods, famines, epidemics, fire-havoc and other emergencies".

The motion was negatived.

श्री भक्त दर्शन (जिला गढ़वाल-पूर्व व जिला मूरादाबाद-उत्तर-पूर्व) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस धारा पर मैं ने संशोधन संख्या १८ की सूचना दी है ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आप को अभी बुलाऊंगा ।

Shri Kamath: I beg to move:

Page 3—

after line 43, *add*:

"(3) All rules made under this section shall be laid before Parliament for a period of at least thirty days, as soon as may be after they are made, and shall be subject to such modifications as Parliament may make therein".

The hon. Minister has told us just now that so many things will be done by rules. Therefore, this amendment acquires additional force and importance. It is an accepted formula now which his colleagues in other Ministries have agreed to in various other Bills, beginning, I think, with the Citizenship Bill which we adopted early last session. This formula that the rules made under the Act shall be brought before the House is a universally accepted practice now and almost all Bills nowadays contain this clause at the end, that the rules made under this Act shall be brought before the House for such modifications as the House may deem fit and necessary. I therefore commend this amendment to the acceptance of the Minister and also of the House

श्री भक्त दर्शन : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, संशोधन संख्या १८ को मूलत: मैं ने प्रस्तावित किया है जैसा कि अभी डाक्टर काटजू ने बताया है: वह इसकी भावना से सहमत हैं, इस आशा के साथ कि वह इस संशोधन को स्वीकार कर लेंगे और इस आशा के साथ

श्री भक्त दर्शन

कि तीसरे वाचन के समय इस बारे में अपने विचार प्रकट करने के लिए आप मुझे कुछ समय अवश्य देंगे, अब मैं कुछ ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूं ।

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I beg to move:

Page 3—

after line 43, *add*:

"(3) All rules framed under this Act shall be placed before the Houses of Parliament for a period of thirty days and shall be subject to such modification as Parliament may make therein".

This amendment is, more or less, to the same effect. I would again reiterate what the hon. Member said just now, that the Minister had also given an assurance in the beginning that the rules would be placed before the House. Of course, the hon. Minister has refused to accept any amendment to improve the Bill; with the steam-roller majority that he has got, he has refused to accept amendments to a Bill, which has got the support of the entire House and which is bound to have the support of the whole country, in order to make it more useful and to bring it in conformity with....

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be a third reading speech.

Shri U. C. Patnaik: I would again submit that the rules should be placed on the Table of the two Houses.

Dr. Katju: My hon. friends have forgotten that in my opening submission, I actually said that we would accept it; the only change that I want to make in the amendment that has been moved by Shri Kamath is this. As his amendment stands, Parliament may take years and years. I want to put some limit on it. These are military rules and there should be some sort of finality about them.

Shri Kamath: Say next session.

Dr. Katju: I would like to make an amendment at the end as follows:

"during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following".

Shri Kamath: agreed.

Dr. Katju: If that is agreed, there is no dispute about it. I will formally move my amendment.

I beg to move:

In amendment No. 18, as proposed by Shri H. V. Kamath, add at the end:

"during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

In amendment No. 18, as proposed by Shri H. V. Kamath, add at the end:

"during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I shall now put to the vote of the House amendment No. 18 moved by Shri Kamath as amended by Government amendment No. 31.

The question is:

Page 3—

after line 43, *add*:

"(3) All rules made under this section shall be laid before Parliament for a period of at least thirty days, as soon as may be after they are made, and shall be subject to such modifications as Parliament may make therein during the session in which they are so laid or the session immediately following".

The motion was adopted.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Amendment No. 26 now falls through.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and Title.

Amendments made:

(i) Page 1, line 4—

for "1955" *substitute* "1956".

(ii) Page 1, line 3—

for "the National Voluteer Force Act" *substitute* "the Lok Sahayak Sena Act".

(iii) Page 1, line 1—

for "Sixth Year" *substitute* Seventh Year".

(iv) Page 1, in the Long Title and wherever they occur in the Bill—

for "National Volunteer Force" *substitute* "Lok Sahayak Sena".

—[*Dr. Katju*]

Dr. Katju: These are verbal amendments. The Secretariat will carry out the corrections.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That Clause 1, as amended, the Enacting Formula, as amended, and the Title, as amended stand part of the Bill".

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, the Enacting Formula, as amended, and the Title, as amended, were added to the Bill.

Dr. Katju: I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed".

श्री भक्त दर्शन : इस बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण विधेयक को इस सदन में लाने और इस को स्वीकृत कराने के लिए मैं रक्षा-मंत्रालय की तीनों महामूर्तियों को धन्यवाद और बधाई देता हूं ।

श्री कामत : तीन मूर्तियां तो जाहिर हैं ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : वे मूर्तियां तो साधारण होती हैं, ये तो महामूर्तियां हैं । मैं गवर्नमेंट को इसलिये भी धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि जब कि बहुत से विधेयकों में हम ने देखा कि उन को जम्मू तथा काश्मीर पर लागू नहीं किया जाता है, लेकिन इस को जम्मू तथा काश्मीर सहित सारे देश पर लागू किया जा रहा है । यह बहुत सुन्दर बात है । इस का मतलब यह है कि जहां तक रक्षा का सम्बन्ध है, गवर्नमेंट कन्या कुमारी से ले कर काश्मीर तक सारे देश को एक ही दृष्टि से देखती है और उस की रक्षा की व्यवस्था कर रही है ।

इस सम्बन्ध में मुझे केवल दो सुझाव देने हैं एक तो यह कि यह जो हमारी लोक सहायक सेना है इसके सिलसिले में अभी कुछ मित्रों ने बतलाया कि हमारे प्रान्तों में भी कुछ इस प्रकार की योजनायें चल रही हैं । जनरल भोंसले की राष्ट्रीय अनुशासन योजना दिल्ली तथा अन्य इलाकों में भी चालू है । इसी तरह से कालिजों और स्कूलों में एन० सी० सी० की योजना चालू है । कुछ प्रान्तों में होमगार्ड की और उत्तर प्रदेश में प्रान्तीय रक्षा दल की योजना चल रही है । मैं समझता हूं कि इस विधेयक के अधिनियम बन जाने के बाद केन्द्रीय सरकार के प्रतिनिधियों को राज्य सरकारों के प्रतिनिधियों के साथ बैठकर सारे देश के लिये एक सी योजना बच्चों से लेकर बूढ़ों तक के अनुशासन के लिए बनानी चाहिये और उसी योजना को सारे देश में चलाना चाहिये मैं समझता हूं कि हमारे रक्षा मंत्री महोदय

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

और हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार इस दिशा में कदम उठायेगी ।

इसके अतिरिक्त मुझे एक सुझाव और देना है। वह यह है कि जो लोग इस योजना के अन्तर्गत प्रशिक्षत हों उनको और भी प्रोत्साहन दिया जाये । जो इस योग्य हों और चाहते हों, उनको फौज में भरती कर लिया जाये । इसके अतिरिक्त इनमें से जो न्यूनतम योग्यता रखने वाले हों उनको सरकारी विभागों की नौकरियों में भी तरजीह दी जानी चाहिए । मैं चाहता हूं कि इस सम्बन्ध में केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारें भी अपने विभिन्न विभागों को आदेश दें कि इन लोगों में जो न्यूनतम योग्यता रखते हों उनको सबसे पहले नौकरियां दी जायें । इसी तरह से इन लोगों को बन्दूकों का लाइसेंस देने में भी प्राथमिकता दी जानी चाहिए ।

इसमें कैम्पों (शिविरों) के लिये ५०० युवकों की संख्या रखी गयी है । हमने देखा है कि कहीं-कहीं यह संख्या पूरी नहीं हो पाती । जैसा कि कुछ दिनों पहले एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में बतलाया गया, कि जब अम्बाला में ट्रेनिंग कैम्प लगाया गया तो महीनों इन्तिजार करने के बावजूद भी पर्याप्त संख्या में लोग नहीं आये । लेकिन कुछ ऐसे क्षेत्र हैं जहां एक सप्ताह के नोटिस पर ५०० तो क्या एक हजार युवक भी शिक्षण के लिए आ सकते हैं, क्योंकि उनके पीछे साहस और सामरिकता की परम्परायें हैं । ऐसे लोगों के ऊपर हमारी सीमा की रक्षा का भार भी है । मेरा सुझाव है कि इस प्रकार के स्थानों में बड़ी तादाद में ऐसे कैम्प चलाये जायें जहां भरती होने के लिये बहुत लोग आसानी से मिल सकते हैं। ऐसा करने से हमारी सीमा का बचाव भी ज्यादा अच्छी तरह हो सकता है ।

अब मैं भवन का ज्यादा समय न लेते हुए, एक बार फिर इस त्रिमूर्ति, अर्थात् तीनों मंत्रियों को, बधाई देकर इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: I welcome this measure because something is better than nothing. But I must submit most respectfully that the measure suffers from confusion of thought and that is the reason why so many things have been attributed to it and so many things have been expected from it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That would be a reflection on the Parliament if it suffers from confusion of thought; we have adopted it.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Certain persons have equated this Bill with the National Discipline Scheme; some persons have equated this Bill with the Home Guards Scheme; some persons have thought that it is going to be an adjunct of our Community Projects and National Development Blocks. This has arisen because of the fact that in the Statement of Objects and Reasons we have given so many things. Only one thing should have been given there, and that is, that this Bill has been brought forward to give military training for the purpose of defence. I do not know why they are not calling a spade a spade and why they have not been able to call it by the right name.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Now the hon. Member need not worry about the objects and reasons; we have passed that stage.

Shri D. C. Sharma: The second thing that I want to suggest is this. The Bill is going to provide training for one out of 3,600 inhabitants of India. I would suggest that at least one out of 1,000 inhabitants of India should be given training under this scheme. At the same time, I feel that the sum of Rs. 1 crore, which has been set apart for this purpose, is not sufficient, and I would suggest that at

least Rs. 4 crores should have been set apart for this purpose, so that we should have had more opportunities for giving training to the people.

When you say that the Bill is meant to give military training to the people, I do not see any reason why you should not say that the Bill is meant for augmenting the defence potential of our country. That is all what I want to say now.

Shri N. B. Chowdhury (Ghatal): By the passing of this Bill we shall put on the statute-book of the country a law, by which Government would be authorised to pend at least Rs. 1 crore per annum, according to the Financial Memorandum, for the purpose of imparting military training to the people of this country. So far as the object of inculcating a sense of discipline or national service is concerned, there can be no difference of opinion. But our fear is that this object, which is really laudable, may not always be borne in mind and there is likelihood of powers being misused under certain circumstances.

When clause 6 of the Bill, which enumerates the duties which all persons who come in for this training may be required to undertake, was under discussion, we felt that the duties may not always be such as the persons concerned may like to discharge voluntarily. We have some experience that in certain cases the National Cadet Corps was used for purposes which the persons concerned there did not like; they were used for the purpose of breaking legitimate strikes of the workers. I would like to urge upon the Government to give an assurance to the House that there would be no misuse of the power given under this law. That is one point which I would like to urge very strongly.

As regards the organisation of the camps, it has been said that as far as possible, the camps would be organised near the Community Projects area. The idea is that the persons who may come from nearby places may render some useful service so far as the implementation of the National Extension Service schemes or other schemes are concerned. We all want that there should be a voluntary co-operation between the Administration and the people. Whether you organise this sort of military training to inculcate a sense of discipline or national service or whether you organise the Bharat Sevak Samaj or any other non-official organisation for national reconstruction, it must always be borne in mind that the attitude should be one of voluntary co-operation and not of coercion or regimentation. We know that the people in this country are eager to help in the task of national reconstruction, and they would be glad to render voluntary service as much as they can. What we notice sometimes is that there is a sort of recalcitrance on the part of the Local Administration and they do not accept the co-operation in the manner they should. Sometimes there are Committees and Development Boards, but the representatives of the people are not on these Committees or Boards. These trainees would render service and would give their help so far as development activities are concerned in case of need, but certainly we have to create a feeling so that the work might be done voluntarily there and they would not be asked to do anything which is not accepted by them, or which is not in accord with the dictates of their conscience.

With these words I would support the Bill and ask the Government to bear in mind that the powers given under this law are not misused in any way.

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह (मुजफ्फरपुर उत्तर पश्चिम): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी जो यह विधेयक हाउस में उपस्थित किया गया है उसके सम्बन्ध में कुछ दोस्तों ने कहा है कि यह पहले इंस्टालमेन्ट (किस्त) के रूप में विधेयक हमारे सामने आया है। मिलेटरी ट्रेनिंग देने के बारे में भी हाउस में जिक्र किया गया। इस के सम्बन्ध में मुझे

[ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह]

तो यह कहना है कि पंचशील के सिद्धान्त के ऊपर हमारा देश आगे बढ़ रहा है और सारे संसार को यह आदर्श अपनाने के लिए प्रेरित कर रहा है और संदेश दे रहा है तब हमें आशा करनी चाहिये कि इस तरह की एक मिलेटरी फोर्स (सैनिकबल) बनाने की खास जरूरत नहीं पड़ेगी और इस तरह के बिल की आवश्यकता नहीं होगी और यह पहला इंस्टालमेंट और आखिरी इंस्टालमेंट होगा और इसके बाद मिलेटरी ट्रेनिंग की तरफ हमारी दृष्टि नहीं जायेगी।

दूसरी बात मुझे यह निवेदन करनी है कि हमारा खुद का तजुर्बा कुछ मिलेटरी अफ़सरान के सम्बन्ध में अच्छा नहीं है और इसलिये इस बात का ध्यान रक्खा जाना चाहिये कि उन कैम्पों में जिनमें हमारे देश के नवयुवक ट्रेनिंग (प्रशिक्षण) लेने आयेंगे, वहां पर आप ऐसे मिलेटरी अफसर और इंस्ट्रक्टर्स रक्खें जिनके चरित्र आदर्शवान हों और उनका अच्छा असर हमारे देश के उन नवयुवकों पर पड़े ताकि जब वे उन कैम्पों से ट्रेनिंग पाकर अपने अपने घरों को वापिस लौटें तो अपने वहां पर एक आदर्श नेता के रूप में काम कर सकें। अभी तो मिलेटरी कैम्पों में जो रिक्रूट्स जाते हैं वे तो हमेशा के लिए फौज में रहते हैं, वहीं काम करते हैं और कमाते खाते हैं लेकिन आपके इन कैम्पों में जो लोग आयेंगे वे तो कैम्पों में ट्रेनिंग लेने के बाद वहां से वापिस आजायेंगे और देश के विभिन्न क्षेत्रों में काम करेंगे, इसलिये इन कैम्पों में आपको ऐसे मिलेटरी अफ़सरों को इंस्ट्रक्टर्स रखना है जो कि आदर्श और चरित्रवान हों और जिनके आचरण का ट्रेनीज पर अच्छा प्रभाव पड़े।

इस समय मैं आपके सामने दो ही उदाहरण रखना चाहता हूं कि किस तरह का मिलेटरी अफ़सरों का पबलिक के साथ व्यवहार होता है। एक वाकया तो तब का है कि एक मर्तबा मैं ट्रेन में फर्स्ट क्लास में सफ़र कर रहा था उसमें एक मिलेटरी अफ़सर अपने साथ कुत्ता लिये हुये जा रहे थे। मैंने उनसे यह कहा कि इस कुत्ते को ब्रेकवेन में ले जाइये तो उन्होंने जो बुरा रुख अख्तयार किया, उसके बारे में मुझे मिनिस्टर साहब से शिकायत करनी पड़ी और उन्होंने उस मामले में उचित कार्यवाही करने का वायदा भी किया है।

दूसरा मामला इस प्रकार है। एक मर्तबा मेरा फर्स्ट क्लास का कूपे रिजर्व था और दूसरे अफसर अपनी फैमिली के साथ सफ़र कर रहे थे। वे मिलेटरी अफ़सर चढ़ आये और वहां पर बैठने लगे तो मैंने कहा कि यहां पर उनकी सीट नहीं है और वाक़या भी यही था और उनकी सीट दूसरी जगह रिजर्व थी, लेकिन वह अड़ गये कि नहीं वे तो यहीं बैठेंगे।

तीसरा वाक़या यूं पेश आया कि एक मर्तबा जब मैं ट्रेन में ऊपर की सीट पर अपना बिस्तर रख रहा था, एक मिलेटरी अफ़सर डिब्बे में चढ़ आया और वह उचक कर ऊपर चढ़ गया और पैर पसार लिये . . .

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : यह तो आप सब रेलवे की बातें बतला रहे हैं।

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : मैं यह बतला रहा हूं कि मिलेटरी अफसरान पबलिक के साथ किस तरह पेश आते हैं।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : मिलेटरी अफसरान की सारी ऐक्टिविटीज तो आप इस विधेयक के अवसर पर सामने नहीं ला सकते।

ठाकुर युगल किशोर सिंह : ठीक है जो मेरा तजुर्बा था वह मैंने थोड़ा सा इस मौके पर बतला दिया।

यह जो यहां पर नेशनल सिक्योरिटी (राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा) की बात कही गई है उसके बारे में हम सब लोग जानते हैं कि ने लोग

अपने घर में आकर किस तरह से लोक सेवा का काम करते हैं और किस तरह का अनुशासन बर्तते हैं और किस तरह नेशनल इंटरस्ट (अभिरुचि) से काम करते हैं। इसलिये मैं चाहता हूं कि इस काम में ऐसे अफ़सरान रखे जांय जो एक अच्छा आदर्श लोगों के सम्मुख उपस्थित कर सकें और जिससे देश और समाज का भला हो और उन्नति हो।

एक चीज मैं आपको और बतलाऊं कि अभी पटने में जो हड़ताल हुई थी उसमें हमने देखा कि होमगार्ड्स को बुलाया गया और उनके द्वारा हड़ताल तुड़वाने की चेष्टा की गई जो कि मैं समझता हूं कि अनुचित है और मैं चाहता हूं कि होमगार्ड्स का इस रूप में इस्तेमाल न किया जाना चाहिये था। मैं चाहता हूं कि मिनिस्टर महोदय इसके बारे में खास तौर से खयाल रखें।

दूसरी बात यह है कि अभी हाल में जो तरह तरह के कैम्प्स खुल रहे हैं उन सब का कोआर्डिनेशन (समन्वय) जैसा कि श्री भक्त दर्शन ने सुझाया है करना बहुत आवश्यक है और अगर इनमें कोआर्डिनेशन नहीं होगा तो वह लाभदायक नहीं सिद्ध होगा।

Dr. Katju: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I am very grateful to the very cordial reception which this Bill has received in this House. Rules will now be framed and I may assure hon. Members that every suggestion that has been made will be borne in mind. I am personally very anxious that the instructors, from high officers downwards, including JCOs and NCOs and all other ranks, who are deputed to carry out the instructions in these camps, should be of a very selected band. They should remember with whom they are dealing. They are not going to deal with recruits who are making army as their career. They are going to deal with volunteers and they should be dealt with kindness and courtesy and with due consideration. We are at present utilising, to some extent, retired officers of the army. We will depute junior commissioned officers and non-commissioned officers in the army to go and assist in the holding of these camps. It is essential that the camps are held in different parts in different States. I may tell you that I have received requests from the State Governments to hold camps in different areas not because this has something to do with what was called the community project areas but because the State Governments have now come to recognise that wherever a camp under the Lok Sahayak Sena organisation is held, it leads to a general awakening and a general consciousness on the part of the people as to their responsibilities as a citizen.

The admission to these camps is not limited on paper. But, I am personally anxious that we should give every opportunity to members of all classes and all communities, particularly people living in the rural areas, to come forward so that, when they have received military training, they may be able to acquire a sense of discipline and take an active part in the movement for the uplift and betterment of the villagers and also exercise a little leadership in their own village communities.

As my hon. friend Shri D. C. Sharma said just now, the discussion has ranged over wide and varied topics. The Bill is limited to one specific subject, namely, military training. The Bill is intended to meet the urge which is now prevalent all over India. People want to have military training and the Bill is meant for this purpose. The Bill is not limited to any numbers. It will be open to the House, when the Budget comes, to express its approval and say: "We want four crores or five crores so that this may be expanded." I am personally anxious that the limit of one lakh a year must be raised to over two or three lakhs. It is on a voluntary basis. We are laying down principles now while we are not laying down any limits whatsoever.

[Dr. Katju]

I am once again thankful for the reception which has been accorded. What has been said will guide us for many months to come.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

NEWSPAPER (PRICE AND PAGE) BILL

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to provide for the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their pages and of matters connected therewith for the purpose of preventing unfair competition among newspapers so that newspapers may have fuller opportunities of freedom of expression, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

This Bill is coming before this House in pursuance of one of the important recommendations of the Press commission. You will remember that, when the House discussed the report of the Press Commission, this figured as one of the important points of attack. Some of my friends were severe that we were not doing anything in this direction to help the smaller newspapers by having a price-page schedule as early as possible. It was clear from the tone of the debate that the overwhelming majority of Members attached great importance to this recommendation and emphasised that it should be implemented as quickly as possible.

The Press Commission has based its recommendations on a number of considerations. I would like, with your permission, to make a reference to this relevant paragraph of the Press Commission's Report. The Press Commission, in paragraph 205 has said:

"....as matters stand at present a paper with a large circulation because of its lower cost of production per copy enjoys certain advantages over other papers with smaller circulation. Similarly, a paper with large capital resources behind it is free from certain handicaps which affect another paper with limited capital."

Then it says:

"It is true that such economic advantages and handicaps exist in a number of industries but their presence in the newspaper industry is not, in our opinion, conducive to the even and healthy development of the Press. Newspapers serve as media for the free exchange of information and of ideas."

The Commission therefore feels—I am not reading the whole paragraph because it is a long one—like this. The report says:

"After examining various schemes that have been put forward for this purpose, we feel that to fix a minimum price at which papers of a particular size can be sold would be the most effective measure to bring about this end."

That is, to give protection to smaller papers and papers which have not got a big financial standing.

The Commission has made a number of references as to the reasons why certain other factors also, which govern the position of a newspaper, are also involved in this. For example, they say that papers with bigger resources are accustomed to indulge in price-cutting and thus trying to reduce the sale of a rival, and also sometimes reducing it to a position in which the paper might have to close down. This has happened in a number of papers. The Commission has labelled such practices of bigger and more powerful

papers, which I would not like to enumerate here in detail and take your time unnecessarily, as un-journalistic practices, and the Commission's opinion is that in order to protect the weaker papers with lesser financial resources, the most important measure would be fixation of a price-page schedule. The Commission also says, and it has tried to make it clear, that this is not the only recommendation; that is, it does not feel that this alone is going to solve this question of helping smaller papers but this, in its opinion, would be the most important factor.

It has also said in paragraph 211 that when it consulted the newspaper industry regarding this question, it found that there was a considerable divergence of opinion. It has also noted that the divergence has not been according to the size of the paper or its standing; sometimes it has happened that papers of long standing and even powerful position have supported the proposal for a price-page schedule, while there have been papers which might not be in a very happy position who have opposed this schedule. But, on the whole, the Commission feels that some such measure is absolutely essential, if we want to protect the smaller and weaker papers.

If we summarise briefly the Commission's views or the arguments that the Commission has put in favour of the price-page schedule, we can say that in the Commission's opinion, guaranteeing a fair price to independent small papers will enable them to resist competition from bigger and richer papers.

The other important point which the Commission has emphasised in many parts of the Report is—no doubt in a number of industries we allow such kind of competition like price-cutting or cornering which may or may not be good in other industries though I myself am doubtful whether it is a very fair practice in other industries—that as far as the newspaper industry is concerned, the Commission feels very strongly that allowing such a practice to exist in this industry will untimately lead to the cornering of the Press of the country by a few combines. who will then make up our opinions for us and we will have only to read those opinions; we will not get that free and varied expression of opinion which is at the base of a free Press.

Shri Kamath (Hoshangabad): It is already coming to that almost.

Dr. Keskar: That is one of the reasons why this Bill is being brought forward. But the conditions might even be worse.

I would like to enumerate the other arguments in favour of the price-page schedule because, though the House has expressed a general favourable opinion to this principle here, it is necessary, in view of the criticism levelled by various circles here and outside, we should be very clear as to why we feel that such an enactment should be placed on the statute-book. The main points which I would like to place before the House are: that such a fixation of price-page schedule is likely to help in equalising competition and also in the prevention of the emergence of monopolies, and it will also help in relaxing the stranglehold that big advertising interests have on newspapers and generally do not make the papers more independent—of course, it is difficult to say that papers will not depend on advertisements. But when papers have to depend solely on the advertisement revenue in order to live or survive from the assault of their rivals, then they have no other course left except to do what the advertisers ask them to do. While we feel that when a minimum fair price is guaranteed independent papers will have greater chances of fighting for their existence, and they will be able to subsist, they may not become rich and powerful financially; but, in any case, they can survive and carry on their work.

Shri Feroze Gandhi (Pratapgarh Distt.—West *cum* Rae Bareli Distt.—East): If pressure is put by Government advertisers, will they also be affected?

Dr. Keskar: Yes. The papers can become independent of advertisers to some extent and, naturally, the Government also as an advertiser.

The scheme has been criticised by certain interests here and outside. There has been, first of all, criticism that it interferes with the freedom of the Press. Recently I have had the occasion to read criticisms in the foreign Press also regarding the Bill which is before the House.

Shri Kamath: Which foreign Press—American, Russian or Chinese?

Dr. Keskar: It is an American paper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was an English paper.

Dr. Keskar: No, Sir; it was an American paper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It was observed that this was a step towards fascism or something like that.

Dr. Keskar: The criticism is that the Press is not free if in any way it is fettered. Even if you make financial regulations about the Press, it is felt that the Press is fettered. I have looked the provisions very carefully, and I am yet to find out how this effects, for example, the free expression of opinion. After all, a free press means not a free Press business which carries out all sorts of business transactions, but rather it means a Press which has freedom to express any opinion it likes and not be punished for that opinion. If we fix a price at which newspapers ought to be sold, it will not stop the newspapers from expressing a particular opinion. Strong and virulent opinion can be expressed in newspapers of four pages as well as in the newspapers which have eight pages. One can concentrate the venom even in two pages. One might not need eight to ten pages to express such an opinion. So, I am not able to understand that criticism. Of course it is possible that it might be said that we restrict the volume of freedom of expression. I am however unable to understand whether there is any volume in the freedom of expression. It is, of course, possible that some papers might like to put extra material in a paper, but it is my experience that a paper, for becoming bigger and thus having a number of pages more, does not necessarily give greater material. It is possible that a paper of four pages might give better material by becoming a paper of six pages or even of eight pages but if a paper wants to give 12 to 16 pages, it is not necessary that all the additional pages would give very interesting information, to the reader. It might give more advertisement or such other stuff.

Shri Kamath: You might stop them.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: The time will come when it will be stopped.

Dr. Keskar: The other criticism is this. It is something which is unheard of. The criticism is that this measure will ultimately lead to a restriction on the freedom of the Press. Firstly, I would like to point out that the price-page schedule is not something new. It has existed in this country during the war, and it was functioning for a long number of years. During that period, the Press did not suffer in anyway. It is existing in England today, and it has been existing for the last 15 years in Great Britain.

Recently, when the British Government expressed a wish to terminate this soon, the interesting reaction was that the large majority of papers protested against the termination of the price-page schedule. There are only one or two big papers which favour such a move. Even the papers with the largest circulation in England were against the termination of the price-page schedule. So, it would not be proper to say that we are

doing something new and unique or that the Press Commission has suggested something which has not been heard of anywhere else in the world. I am saying this in reply to criticisms made not only in this country but outside also. In Great Britain, such a schedule was existent, and the freedom of the Press was not threatened. I do not see any reason why the giving of such a schedule here will any more threaten the freedom of the Press today.

Another criticism which had been voiced by some of the bigger interests in the Press was that, "It is all right; you are doing something very nice; the object is laudable and desirable; but we are rather doubtful as to how far this will help the weaker Press which you are out to help".

Shri Kamath: Who has voiced the bigger interests in India?

Dr. Keskar: Some of the criticisms made were that though the object is laudable, it will not fulfil its purpose and that the small papers would not be helped. Naturally, that will depend on how the schedule is framed.

Secondly, the arguments that have been put forward by those interests are that, whatever the schedule, the quantum of advertisement will always govern the prosperity or the rise and fall of a paper. That might be only partially true. If a paper gets a fair price which is fixed, then, I am quite sure that on the quality of its service it can hold itself up against even the big papers. It is possible that it might not make such profit or as much profit as the big papers, but certainly, it will not go down as a number of papers had to go down and close in certain States in the country.

I have seen a number of views expressed on this question and I do not want to quote all of them. Recently, the proprietor of one of the important language papers in this country has made a very strong speech in Bombay in favour of a price-page schedule, and disputing the argument that it is going to restrict in anyway the freedom of the Press. We had long discussion and exchange of views with various Press interests, working journalists, the editorial staff and also the proprietors, and we found that the big majority of the Indian Press were in favour of a price-page schedule. In fact, they were insistent that such a schedule should be brought into force as quickly as possible so that the deteriorating financial condition of the papers might be helped to some extent and they might get some protection. It is the opinion expressed here and also by the major part of the Press which ultimately helps the Government in coming to a decision that we should try such a price-page schedule. The price-page schedule was in operation in Great Britain and it continues, and we had also the system of price-page schedule. The object of this had not been the protection of smaller papers but rather to place the newsprint distribution on an equitable basis. For the first time, a price-page schedule will be fixed in order to help the smaller papers. We are not yet very clear how this will evolve. We have, therefore, put a provision in the Bill that this Act, when it is passed by Parliament, will be for five years' duration. The idea is to see how it functions, and if it functions well, it would be easy to renew it again. The views expressed by the Press people themselves—when I am talking of the Press, I am not meaning the bigger papers but I am talking of the smaller papers—were in many ways differing. We said that in view of the desire of most of the papers and in view of the Parliament's opinion it is essential that we give it a thorough trial. If the trial proves successful, then we will certainly like to continue it until such time as it is necessary in the interests of the newspapers. This is the reason for bringing forward this Bill here today.

As far as the details of the Bill are concerned, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Members to two things. Firstly, the Bill itself is an enabling Bill, that is, the Bill gives

[Dr. Keskar]

powers to fix a schedule. In our discussion with the Press people, it was found that unless we have got power, it was very difficult to get all of them and get their views and ultimately decide on a schedule. So, we felt that it is more practical to have the power first to fix a schedule and then only proceed further. No doubt, we have taken certain preliminary steps of consultation with the papers. But any detailed consultation would have been rather unreal unless the Government had the powers sanctioned by Parliament to proceed further. That is the reason why in the legislation as put before the House, you will find that only enabling powers are being taken here. The schedule is to be fixed after that in consultation with the Press people themselves.

4 P.M.

The second point is this. Even after we have clarified it in the discussions in the Rajya Sabha, I find that confusion still prevails or probably some people want to persist in the confusion regarding the Bill and its objects. For example, it is clear that the object is not to fix the price and the number of pages of any newspaper. The object is to fix the relationship between the price and the number of pages; *i. e.*, we do not want to say to any paper, "you publish only 20 pages". What we say is, "If you want to publish 20 pages, you will have to fix a particular price for the paper"; that is all. The paper is quite free to publish as many pages as it likes, provided the price is related to the number of pages published. Really speaking, it is not a restriction either on the price or on the pages; but, there should be a relationship between the price and the number of pages. I find that in criticisms voiced here and there, this has been completely misunderstood. I do not know whether it is a case of misunderstanding or criticism even though they have understood our object. I want to make it clear that this does not preclude any paper from publishing any number of pages it likes. Only, the papers will have to relate the number of pages with a particular price and they are free to decide as to what is in their best interest.

One or two criticisms have been made regarding competition to which so much reference is made and about which there is so much hubbub in the smaller papers. I would not take much time, but there is no doubt that in a number of languages, it has happened, more especially during the last seven to ten years, that people with money earned not in newspapers, but in other businesses, have decided to put in newspapers, and as is done in other businesses, they have tried to put it in newspapers, and as is done in other businesses, they have tried to corner the market in that particular area by reducing the price of the paper further and further, until the rival, which is an old standing paper, is not able to continue cutting its price to the same extent and is ultimately closed down. It has happened in Gujarati papers, Marathi papers and in a number of other languages. Later, when the old paper closes down, the other paper again increases the price, because now there is no rival and they can fix any price they like. The names of the papers also can be given, but I do not want to take up the time of the House by giving all these details. Some cases were mentioned here by some Members representing the Gujarati Press. I remember my friend, Shri C. C. Shah, who gave a very detailed exposition of this kind of competition in Gujarati papers. It exists in other language papers also.

Lastly, as far as what is known as the "Language Press", *i.e.* "non-English Press" is concerned, I would like to say something. Because English has been the official language in our country, the Press first began in English to a great extent; some of the most important papers were started, flourished and are established in English. At present these papers are in a very favourable position.

That is due mainly not only to English being the official language, but also to the bulk of the advertisement revenue going to these papers. The question of advertisement revenue is a different question and I would like to deal with it in detail. It is in many ways a complex question, because India is one of the few countries where a large part of the advertisement revenue comes from foreign countries; and automatically that revenue goes in a large measure to the English papers. This has created a very favourable position for the English papers. We, in India are going to have soon our own languages as the official languages and so, building up a healthy and strong regional Press is very essential for our future national life. Unless we are able to build up a good regional Press, whether in Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati or Hindi, the future of democracy in this country will not be as good as it should be. In fact, the development of democracy will be hindered very much, unless we are able to build up a really healthy and good Press in all our regional languages. That is a difficult task because, as I said, the English papers are placed in a very favourable position. As far as the language Press is concerned, there might be a paper or two in Calcutta or Madras which are well established; with these very few exceptions, the regional language papers are poor and they have not got much revenue. Their advertisement revenue is also very poor and they live from hand to mouth. Conditions of living from hand to mouth apply not only to the people who are working in those papers—the journalists—but also to the business of the paper. If we want to build up a good and healthy Press, we have to see that some help or some protection is given to the regional language Press, so that those papers may start, if not in ideal conditions, at least under some minimum favourable conditions, for growth and development.

My submission is that the price-page schedule is one of the important measures which will help the language papers to a great extent. I do not say that this alone is going to help them; other things also will help them, because there are some good language papers which have been functioning for sometime, but which are not able to build themselves up for the reason that they cannot get protection against the favourable conditions of the English papers and also advertisements. A newspaper structure in which such a kind of competition will be minimised will enable them to stand on their own feet to a great extent.

These are the few points that I wanted to put before hon. Members in commending this Bill for their consideration and passing. I would reply to whatever points arise during the course of the debate later.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to provide for the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their pages and of matters connected therewith for the purpose of preventing unfair competition among newspapers so. that newspapers may have fuller-opportunities of freedom of expression, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The time allotted is 3 hours for this Bill. May I know how the allocation is to be made between consideration stage and clause-by-clause discussion?

Dr. Suresh Chandra (Aurangabad): More time can be given for the consideration stage.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It can be two hours for the consideration stage and one hour for clause-by-clause discussion. Already we have spent about half an hour and another 15 minutes may be taken by the Minister for the reply. That means, out of two hours, 1¼ hours are available for hon. Members to participate. May I

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker]

know the number of Members who want to speak? I see eight Members standing up.

Dr. Keskar: The time-limit for the speeches may be restricted a little.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It should not exceed in any case 15 minutes. That would be all right.

Shri Chattopadhyaya (Vijayavada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, when I think of big newspapers and small newspapers, I am reminded of a conundrum. The conundrum is what is the difference between a dog with its tail on and a dog with its tail off. The answer is that in the case of the dog with its tail on, every dog has his day and in the case of the dog with its tail cut off, it has only a week-end. Actually the position of newspapers has been very similar to what has been described in this conundrum. I am extremely glad to see that this Bill has got a clause which promises to help smaller newspapers.

I am in agreement with the Bill, but with a few modifications. I take it that the purpose of this Bill is to render help to newspapers with smaller resources and such newspapers as are published in our languages. I am rather doubtful whether it would actually come to the rescue of such papers and whether it would be able to fulfil this ideal, of guaranteeing freedom of expression. This ideal of course, could be fulfilled only if the financial resources of such newspapers can be made sound, steady and stable, giving these papers a sense of security. Money makes a mare go;—that is the proverb—where there is no money, the mare ceases to be a mare but becomes a nightmare. That is precisely the case with newspapers with small resources. If there is no financial security, naturally, the small papers will constantly be full of the fear of the morrow and will have the experience of the sword of Damocles hanging over their little heads.

Newsprint, I venture to say, plays a vital role in the control of newspaper finance. Big newspapers are in the merry position of being able to buy newsprint whenever they like, whenever it suits them. But, this is not the case with the small newspaper. It is a case of the bigger fish swallowing the smaller fish, a fishy situation, I take it, stinking with the inequity of control. Newsprint, as we know,—as far as I know—is not manufactured in our country, not even one inch of it. All the newsprint, we get from countries abroad, from Norway, Sweden, Austria, Germany and Canada. Of course, as far as I know, the greatest import is from Norway and Sweden and Finland. During the war, our requirements were about 36,000 tons a year. Today, it is over a lakh of tons a year. It is, as I said, only the big newspapers that can afford to import this newsprint. With the honourable exception of Bengal perhaps, all these large newspapers in big cities have formed a strong chain, every link of it of pure steel. Only those who have large bank credits—I am referring of course to the Birlas, the Goenkas and Dalmias and other malmias—can pile up stocks of newsprint. Newspapers have their own economics. It is from the sale of newspapers that the cost of this newsprint is met. The rest of it is from advertisement, which, of course, means that the big newspapers have to toe the lines of the Government. Government dictates a certain policy and they have got to abide by it and it is not difficult for them to abide by it. Unfortunately our democracy smacks somewhat of capitalism. Naturally, therefore, the leftist papers, progressive newspapers, have not even the shadow of a ghost of a chance to secure advertisements.

We have all seen further how off and on big newspapers come out with pompous Supplements: Agricultural Supplement, Engineering Supplement, all kinds of Supplements. This is met by big advertisements, for which no extra price is demanded. The repercussion, I venture to suggest, on

the smaller newspapers, therefore, becomes tragic since they are in the helpless position, the ironical position of having to compete with their big brothers with large paws embroidered with clause with power to strike and strangle. To rescue these smaller newspapers, this Bill is essential.

But, I feel that it does not go far enough, not as far as we had expected. In this Bill, the Government is only asking for powers to make rules to introduce price page schedules.

Dr. Keskar: Not to make rules, but to introduce price page schedules.

Shri Chattopadhyaya: I beg to submit that such blanket powers in the hands of the Government are not conductive to the growth of democracy. For instance, during the last war, modified price page schedules were introduced by the Government. But they were used chiefly to control the policy of the newspapers. Allow me to refer to sub-clause (4) of clause 3 on page 2 of the Bill. It says:

> "Before making any order under this section, the Central Government shall consult associations of publishers, and such publishers likely to be affected by the order as it may think fit with respect to the action proposed to be taken."

What actually does this mean? It has not an inch of space left for the journalists. Where do they come in? They have been overlooked. Without journalists, the position is that of a bath room without soaps, of the Treasury Benches without Ministers, of Parliament without Speaker or Deputy-Speaker. Do we realise how important the journalists are? It has been forgotten that they are the creators of newspaper interests. But, this Bill seems to support only the interests of the proprietors. I must confess that I did not expect this, having been constantly made to understand that our Government is democratic. I would like to know whether the Government, in fixing the prices, will take into consideration the different sizes of the papers. And we should like also to understand what is the goal of the newspaper in a free country. It is certainly, obviously, the creative activities of the people, but unfortunately this has been totally neglected so far and will remain an impossibility so long as newsprint is not made available to the mofussil papers. I say let the big newspapers continue their grandiose distribution of international news, but the mofussil papers tell us about our people. Let our country know all about our people. Let them have a full chance. Let us know about their life from day to day, their problems, their joys, their sorrows. Let us know all about them. Unfortunately this has been almost a black out for us all these years.

Lastly, I should like to refer you and the House to clause 7 which says:

> "No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except upon a complaint in writing by the Press Registrar appointed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867, or by any officer authorised by him in writing in this behalf."

You have imposed a penalty on the contravention of the price-page schedule, but there is a snag in it. I humbly submit that there is a snag in it. The snag is that unless the Registrar makes a written complaint in a court, the court shall take no cognizance of the contravention, which means that all is dependant on the sweet or bitter will and pleasure of the Press Registrar. While we want the price-page schedule to save the life of the smaller newspapers and help their growth, we certainly do not want such blanket powers to be left in the hands of the Government. We hope, we wish, nay, we ask fervently that the rules be framed by persons of experience, persons who are intimately connected with newspapers as active journalists, not by proprietors without any experience who only stand and look on hoping perhaps for a harvest of profit.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy (Mysore): I generally agree with the objects of the Bill. When the Press Commission's Report was discussed on the floor of the House a few months ago, except one Member all the other Members unanimously sup-

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ported the idea of having a price-page control. I only feel sorry that all the recommendations of the Press Commission have not been brought simultaneously in the form of a Bill. I wonder why the hon. Minister believes in bringing measures by instalments. Anyway, this measure is good in a way though as the previous speaker said it does not go far enough.

Today to start a paper is a Herculian task. A man of moderate means, possessing about Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 20,000 is not able to start a paper, much less run it. Moreover, we have passed a few days ago another measure providing for wage boards for journalists. Unless the press is prosperous, unless it is on sound lines, it is not possible to give adequate pay and create adequate facilities for journalists. Though they are very necessary, how is it possible to create such good facilities for journalists unless the weaker sections of the press are protected? The greatest danger to the freedom of the press is the big press itself. The giant monopolists who are controlling various newspapers do not allow the smaller and weaker papers to grow. Unless they grow, they cannot fulfil the conditions laid down in the Bill that we have already passed. So, the price-page control is a necessary step. I feel that the price-page control is not only a desirable proposition but a necessary imperative.

The Bill does not provide for the rates or rather the price-page schedule. Without the price-page schedule, I am afraid the Bill will become a formal affair. The most important thing is missing in the bill. We really do not know what type of schedule will be drawn up by the Government in their order, and we are not sure whether the price-page control will be adequate enough to permit the growth of the smaller and weaker papers. The best thing would have been to allow the House itself to consider the reasonable rates and to fix those rates and include them in the Bill. That would have really given us a definite picture of the shape of things to come, but unfortunately this omission has put us in the dark. At present we are giving power to Government to issue an order fixing the rates. And we are in a way giving this power to the bureaucracy which has not always proved impartial in such delicate matters wherein capitalist interests are involved. So, without a price-page schedule the Bill suffers from a great handicap and that will make it just a formal enactment.

A little while ago the Minister was speaking about the advertisements and also the cost of production. He said that the price of a paper should be such as to meet the cost of its productions as far as possible. That means to say the paper should not depend mostly on advertisements and advertising interests. I agree with it, but there is no use expressing a laudable objective in words unless it is carried out in reality.

He has not given us any indication of the steps that he would take in regard to the fixation of advertisement space in papers. Of course, there is a reference in the Bill that the order may provide for regulating advertisements.

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member has probably forgotten that we laid on the Table of the House certain recommendations of the Commission which Government has accepted, and in that the proportion of advertisement to the other material is one which we have accepted already.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am sorry I was not able to look into it. But I feel that the Government should bear in mind that definite proportion of advertisement space in relation to news should always be provided while making any order. Unless that is done, I am afraid big newspapers will carry away most of the advertisement and the small papers will be left without advertisement.

The hon. Minister said that he is not fixing any ceiling or flooring on the pages of newspapers. I do not know whether that will be a sound

principle to be followed in the existing circumstances because I feel that though we fix the price for the number of pages I am afraid, some big papers may still compete with the smaller papers if the overall maximum pages of a paper are not fixed. Moreover, that is necessary in view of the fact....

Dr. Keskar: I have not clearly understood the hon. Member. When we fix the price for number of pages, the maximum number of pages has to be fixed. If the hon. Member reads the Bill he will find that it is very clearly given in the Bill.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: As I understand, the Bill provides the relation between the price and the page.

Dr. Keskar: The maximum and the minimum. It is given in the Bill.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: It does not fix the maximum number of pages that a newspaper can give to the public.

Dr. Keskar: It is there in clause (3).

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: I am afraid it is not made clear. So I feel that in the existing conditions a limit may be placed and the clear indication should be there.

Dr. Keskar: If the hon. Member looks at clause 3, section 1, he will find in line 11, the words "prices charged for newspapers in relation to their maximum or minimum number of pages".

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Yes. That does not fix the maximum number of pages.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It is the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their maximum or minimum number of pages.

Dr. Keskar: I do not know how it can be made clearer.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: You do not say that a paper should adhere to that maximum number of pages...

Dr. Keskar: It can go up to that. But it need not give that.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: That is my point. You do not state that the paper should only give so many pages and not more. So I think that would be necessary in the existing circumstances because there is so much demand for newsprint. We are not having adequate newsprint and we have to import newsprint from abroad. Various big papers will monopolise the newsprint and may indirectly starve the smaller papers.

The hon. Minister has agreed that this is only one of the ways of protecting smaller newspapers and it is not the only way of protecting them. But there are other handicaps which have to be overcome. Smaller newspapers suffer from lack of financial resources and they do not enjoy the bank credit; so they cannot hold stock of newsprint for a long time. There the big papers will have a decisive advantage over the smaller papers. So, unless there is regulation of the maximum number of pages that a newspaper can give at a time, say during a week, the smaller papers will be in difficulties. For instance, the hon. Minister was referring to Sunday supplements and special supplements. These supplements do not, as he says, have news value. They are issued from time to time because they get large sums of money from various business interests. Much of these supplements is just propaganda stuff and the public are not in any way interested in these supplements and I feel that from the point of view of the utilisation of newsprint it is just a waste. So, I suggest that there should be a conditional ceiling, a qualified ceiling on the number of pages given by a newspaper. Some hon. Members may say that this is a restriction on the freedom of the press. But we are not restricting any news item that is published in a newspaper or any opinion that is expressed there. We are putting only a ceiling on the number of pages given by a

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newspaper. Thereby, we will be controlling the utilisation of newsprint also. I feel that point must be made very clear.

Then, the hon. Minister has not told us the ratio between price and page. I feel that one anna for four pages will be a reasonable price and there are papers....

Shri Jaipal Singh (Ranchi—west Reserved-Sch. Tribes): Of what size?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Usual newspaper size.

Shri Jaipal Singh: Standard size?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Usual demy size. The price should be one anna for four pages. There are very many papers which are charging this amount, one anna for four pages. If this yardstick is applied to all the papers and if the maximum limit on pages is made applicable there will be better equity and justice in the newspaper world. I feel that one anna will be a reasonable limit and it should be accepted by the hon. Minister.

Secondly, there are various one-sheet papers, which charge one pice, two pice etc. They are not able to pay their staff adequately. However legally they have to adhere to certain principles in regard to pay and emoluments. But, unfortunately, most of these papers are not able to carry on in such conditions. I feel, therefore, that such papers must be asked to co-operate with each other and set up co-operative unions. For instance, in Mysore there are various sheet-papers issued for one pice per day. There are very many people employed by these papers on Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 per month. In such cases, I suggest, the Minister should take care to see that advice is given to all these papers to come together, and start a paper under the auspices of the co-operative union.

That way, we shall be helping the small papers to consolidate their position.

I welcome this measure, though it is very limited. But I expect that the Minister would take all these things into consideration before he passes the order fixing the price-page ratio. And I hope that the price-page schedule will come into operation very soon.

Shri Jaipal Singh: I am grateful to you for having given me a few minutes to lend my support to this Bill. I know things might have come in a stream one after the other. But I do appreciate the difficulties of Government in not having brought a composite Act, which should have included all the recommendations of the Press Commission.

Before I go any further, may I repeat on the floor of this House, the wonderful work that has been put into the Press Commission, particularly by the late Mr. Justice Rajadhyaksha, and not only by him, but also by the secretariat, especially, in regard to this particular matter? A great deal of research had to be put in to enable us, commissioners, on the Press Commission, to arrive at a reasonable solution.

What was the problem before us? The problem was one of bringing health into the fourth estate in our country. That was the problem. People may have all manner of solutions. The question was how we could strive for a *via media* whereby we would be working within our capacity, according to the conditions prevalent in this country.

Now, a Bill of this sort would not have been necessary in countries where journalism is developed, where the newspapers are highly developed, where the reading public knows what it is reading, and where the reading public can discriminate between truth and falsehood. We are a democratic country, and one of the biggest problems that we have not only in regard to the fourth estate, but in regard to every other estate, and every other problem in this country, is how the different viewpoints and interests of people have to be handled, how far we

can permit people to handle them, and in what way.

I know there is a great deal of murmuring in this country by the big newspapers. The Press Commission, at no stage, ever wanted to handicap greater newspapers, the national newspapers and the metropolitan newspapers from growing bigger and bigger. Let them become as big as some of the biggest newspapers in advanced countries. The Press Commission were never against it. But the whole question was how the provincial and the district papers could be given, shall I say, a new lease of life. They were up against not only big money but the enormous circulation of newspapers by vested interests.

My hon. friend who preceded me talked about advertisements. It may be just one of the many problems that we have to grapple with. A particular class of manufacturers may pick upon only one kind of a paper and give all the advertisements to it. Why talk of one class of manufacturers? Government are one of the biggest advertisers in this country. If Government were to favour one particular paper, be it an English paper, be it a language paper, or be it a periodical, what can be the net result? They would be giving it an advantage over the other newspapers which would not have that revenue from the advertisement.

So, the Press Commission had to strike a balance. The whole question was that if we had to reach the masses, it would not be the national and metropolitan papers that would be reaching the masses, but it would be the local newspapers. We have, as it were, now to lay a foundation whereby we build from the bottom. In other words, hitherto, a newspaper in this country meant only the city papers, and by city papers, I mean papers coming not from small cities, but from our metropolitan cities. That was the position we had to face.

My hon. friend has also referred to the legislation that we have already passed in regard to payment of wages to working journalists and the like. There, again, we had the same problem. We knew that if the district papers had to survive, the restrictions we were forced to place were not going to be much of a help to them, but then, as in every field of labour legislation, we were up against this fact that if we wanted better standard of news, better standards of honesty in objectivity of news, well, the newsmen, working journalists and the whole lot of them would have to be paid decent wages. It was not an easy matter.

Similarly, here again, we have to face that problem. Do we or do we not want that our newspapers should reach even the most distant villages? Can anyone tell me that a paper in Bombay would be reaching the villages in the heart of the Thana district where the tribal pepole live? That would be beyond the means. We must somehow or other make up our minds that it will have to be the district paper. So, when I talk of the district paper, I want hon. Members of Parliament to realise this. Take a place like Delhi. How many hon. Members realise how many hundreds of newspapers are published here, yellow journals and all that sort of thing? How are they going to stop all this? The only way to stop all these things, to my mind, is to put a premium on decent journalism. I do maintain that though I accept that this piece of legislation may put a handicap on the bigger newspapers, yet, taking the picture over the whole of India, I am convinced in my own mind that the only way we can encourage nationalistic tendencies in journalism would be by having this Bill.

My hon. friend who preceded me, somehow or other, could not appreciate the mathematics of the pricing of newspapers in this country. There is no such thing as a minimum or a maximum. This Bill does not put any maximum limit. Let the newspaper-

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man go on printing a hundred pages in a daily newspaper; let him do that, but if he prints hundred pages, he begins with four pages per anna—I think that was what my hon. friend mentioned—and if he goes on increasing the number of pages, he has got to go on increasing the price also. So, the limit or the maximum is limited by the capacity of the paper to run at a particular price.

Similarly, there is no such thing as a minimum. The minimum is what one can afford. So, there is neither a minimum nor a maximum. But the point is that the norm is there. You begin with a particular norm. If you want to go beyond that norm, then, that going beyond that norm must not be a handicap to the smaller newspapers in this country. That is the picture in this Bill.

I do hope that we shall not be pessimistic. I know it is going to be a handicap, because, alreday, in certain quarters, there is murmuring that, perhaps, newspapers will cease to be newspapers, and will become advertising papers. That apprehension has been expressed. But I personally am one who is not frightened by that. I do not think that can be the position. I think what will happen is that the advertising material will now have to be spread throughout the rural newspapers.

I personally have no hesitation in supporting this, because we must bear in mind, that any piece of legislation that comes to this House is in relation to other pieces of legislation and other mechanisms that the Government of India must have, as for example, the Press Council. The Press Council will see to it that the operative aspects of every piece of legislation in connection with this that is brought in is in keeping with the general objective that we have to have in this country.

I heartily support this Bill.

श्री भक्त दर्शन (जिला गढ़वाल—पूर्व व जिला मुरादाबाद–उत्तर पूर्व) : समाचार (मूल्य तथा पृष्ठ) विधेयक यहां पर हमारे माननीय मंत्री डा० केस्कर जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है; उसका समर्थन करते हुये मैं उन्हें साधुवाद देता हूं। जैसा कि विधेयक के मन्तव्य में दिया गया है, समाचार-पत्रों के अन्दर अनुचित होड़ को रोकने, जिस में समाचार पत्रों को स्वतंत्रता पूर्वक अपने विचार प्रकट करने का और भी अधिक अवसर प्राप्त हो सके, समाचार पत्रों के मूलय को उन की पृष्ठ संख्या के आधार पर विनियमित करने और तत्संबंधी उपबन्ध करने के लिये यह विधेयक लाया गया है।

इस विधेयक के मूल सिद्धान्तों के सम्बन्ध में चूंकि सारे देश में और इस सदन में कोई मतभेद नहीं रह गया है, इसलिये इस बारे में मैं अधिक समय इस सदन का न लेकर, जहां मैं इस विधेयक का स्वागत करता हूं, वहां मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस बात की ओर भी आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि प्रेस आयोग ने जितनी महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिशें की थीं, उन में से अभी तक दो वर्ष के परिश्रम के बाद भी केवल दो मदों पर ही कारंवाई हो सकी है। एक तो प्रेस रजिस्ट्रार की नियुक्ति हो गई है और दूसरे श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के सम्बन्ध में पिछले दिनों एक विधेयक स्वीकार किया गया है। यद्यपि उसके सम्बन्ध में जो प्रगति हो रही है, उस से हमें सन्तोष नहीं है, यहां तक कि हम लोगों ने जो आशा की थी कि बड़ी शीघ्रता से नियम बनेंगे और उनके अन्तर्गत पत्रकारों के जीवन-स्तर को ऊंचा किया जायेगा वह आशा भी अब धीरे धीरे मिटती जा रही है। मुझे तो सन्देह है कि शायद ही सन् १९५६ के अन्त तक हमारी उन आशाओं की पूर्ति हो सके।

इस के साथ ही यह जो विधेयक रक्खा गया है, वह राज्य सभा से स्वीकार किया

जा कर इस सदन में विचार के लिये प्रस्तुत है। जहां तक प्रेस कौंसिल (परिषद्) का सम्बन्ध है, उसे राज्य सभा में प्रस्तुत किया जा चुका है, लेकिन जहां तक मैं समझता हूं कि कार्य-भार भी उस सभा के सामने इतना अधिक है कि उस विधेयक पर इस सत्र में शायद ही विचार किया जा सके। हमें अगले सत्र तक उसकी प्रतीक्षा करनी पड़ेगी। तभी शायद हम इस सदन में उस पर विचार कर के उस को स्वीकार कर सकेंगे।

मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि आज से दो वर्ष हुये जब प्रेस आयोग ने अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत किया था। दो वर्षों से आज तक समय-समय पर दोनों सदनों में इस प्रश्न पर विचार होता रहा है, और मैं ऐसा कहने में कोई कंजूसी नहीं करना चाहता कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय और मंत्रालय ने इस सम्बन्ध में काफी परिश्रम किया है, लेकिन कुछ ऐसे विषय हैं जिनकी ओर ध्यान देने की बड़ी आवश्यकता है, जैसे कि अखबारी कागज के सम्बन्ध में, जो कि विदेशों से चला आ रहा है, और एक प्रकार से उसका एकाधिकार बड़े समाचार पत्रों के हाथ में है। इस विधेयक के स्वीकृत हो जाने के बाद जब तक उस स्थिति में परिवर्तन नहीं होता, और छोटे पत्रों को भी बाहर से अखबारी काग़ज मंगाने की स्वीकृति नहीं मिलती, या जो प्रेस आयोग ने कहा है, उसके अनुसार सारे देश में एक ही कौरपोरेशन (निगम) नहीं बनता है, तब तक मैं साक्षता हूं कि यह मूल्य निर्धारण अधिक लाभदायक नहीं हो सकेगा।

जैसा मंत्री महोदय ने कहा, आज बहुत से विदेशी पत्रों में भी और हमारे देश के पत्रों में भी बहुत से लोग इस बात की आलोचना करने लगे हैं कि पृष्ठों के मल्य पर जो नियंत्रण लगाया जा रहा है, वह शायद विचारों को प्रकट करने की स्वाधीनता पर नियंत्रण लगाने का एक तरीका हो, लेकिन, जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने स्पष्ट कर दिया, उन की यह दुर्भावना गलत है। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि जो बड़े-बड़े समाचार पत्र हैं, जिन्हों ने अपने को स्थापित कर लिया है, जो भारत की पत्रकारिता के प्रतिनिधि बने हुए हैं, और जिन्हों ने अपना एक प्रकार से एकाधिकार और प्रभुत्य स्थापित कर लिया है, वे इस सिद्धान्त के जबर्दस्त विरोधी हैं और इस का स्पष्ट प्रमाण यह बात है कि भले ही हमारे मंत्री महोदय पर इस का बहुत प्रभाव न हो, लेकिन विधेयक के अन्दर ऐसा मालूम होता है कि बहुत काफी प्रभाव इस बात का पड़ा है, क्योंकि हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने बतलाया कि इस विधेयक को केवल पांच वर्ष के लिये स्वीकार किया जा रहा है। यहां पर हमारे प्रेस आयोग के एक माननीय सदस्य बैठे हुए हैं, और जहां तक मैं ने प्रेस आयोग की रिपोर्ट को पढ़ा है, मैं ने कहीं पर भी यह नहीं देखा कि इस चीज को पांच वर्ष के लिये परीक्षण के तौर पर लागू किया जाये। माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने स्वयं कहा कि पिछले महायुद्ध के समय हमारे देश में पृष्ठ-नियंत्रण किया गया था और इंगलैंड में दस पन्द्रह वर्षों से इस पर अब भी अमल ही रहा है। जैसा कि मंत्री जी ने स्वयम् बताया, जिस किसी ने हाल—यह सुझाव में इंगलैंड में दिया कि इस नियंत्रण को हटा दिया जाये, वहां के अखबारों ने एक आन्दोलन खड़ा कर दिया कि इस नियंत्रण को न हटाया जाये। जब ब्रिटेन जैसे देश के अन्दर, जहां कि पत्रकारिता काफी उच्च स्तर की है, यह माना जाता है कि इस को हटाना नहीं चाहिये, तो मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि क्यों केवल पांच वर्षों के लिये इस विधेयक को लाया जा रहा है? इस से मन में शंका होती है कि शायद हमारे मंत्री महोदय पर, या मंत्रालय के ऊपर, जो बड़े-बड़े समाचार-पत्र हैं, जिन के हितों को इस विधेयक से आघात पहुंचने वाला है, उन का प्रभाव पड़ गया है।

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस नियंत्रण को इस लिये भी रक्खा जाना चाहिये कि हम अपने देश के अन्दर एक प्लैन इकानामी (आयोजित बचत) अर्थात् एक सुनियोजित अर्थ-तन्त्र स्थापित करना चाहते हैं, इस प्लैन्ड इकानामी के अन्तर्गत सब जगह पर कुछ न कुछ प्लैनिंग होने जा रही है, जब हम अपने समूचे अर्थ-तन्त्र में इस प्लैनिंग को छा देना चाहते हैं, तब जो यह विचारों को प्रकट करने का काम है, जो जनता के अन्दर प्रचार का सब से बड़ा माध्यम है, यह जो महत्वपूर्ण शस्त्र हमारे हाथ में है, उस के लिये हम केवल पांच वर्ष के लिये ही यह प्लैनिंग क्यों कर रहे हैं। इस से मुझे शंका होती है, और मैं आशा करता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय इस को स्पष्ट करेंगे कि वह केवल पांच वर्ष के लिये क्यों इस विधेयक को स्वीकार करने जा रहे हैं ? और इस को आगे बढ़ाने के सम्बन्ध में वे कहां तक आश्वासन दे सकेंगे ?

जहा तक मुझे मालूम हो सका है, और जो कुछ मैं ने समाचार-पत्रों में देखा है, बहुत से लोग, जो हमारे श्रमजीवी पत्रकार हैं उन की आड़ लेना चाहते हैं। वे कहते हैं कि एक ओर तो सरकार हम से यह कहती है कि हम श्रमजीवी पत्रकारों के वेतन बढ़ा दें और दूसरी ओर मूल्य नियंत्रण किया जा रहा है। उन का तर्क यह है कि एक ओर तो समाचार-पत्रों पर यह भार डाला जा रहा है कि वेतन बढ़ाये जायें और दूसरी ओर मूल्य में कमी करने का विचार किया जा रहा है, यह दोनों बात एक साथ नहीं चलेंगी। लेकिन जैसा कि प्रेस आयोग ने स्पष्ट कहा है, इस से बहुत अधिक भार समाचार-पत्रों पर नहीं पड़ेगा और पत्रकारों का वेतन बढ़ाने के बाद भी उन को किसी बात की असुविधा नहीं होगी। जैसे एक पैसा प्रति पृष्ठ औसतन के हिसाब से लिया जाये, जैसा श्री गुरुपादस्वामी जी ने स्वीकार किया कि चार पैसे में चार पृष्ठ देने का विचार है, मैं ने एक पैसा प्रति पृष्ठ के हिसाब के सिद्धान्त को स्वीकार कर के हिसाब लगाया तो पता चला कि उस के अन्तर्गत पत्रकारों का जो वेतन बढ़ाया जाने वाला है वह भी आ जाता है, और उचित मुनाफा भी आ जाता है। इसलिये इस बारे में भ्रम नहीं होना चाहिये।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि इस विधेयक में यह बात रक्खी जा रही है कि यह तो एक 'इनेबलिंग ऐक्ट', है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी बताया कि इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत हम सरकार को मूल्य निर्धारित करने का अधिकार दे रहे हैं, मूल्य का निर्धारण नहीं किया जा रहा है। इस अधिकार को प्रयोग में लाने के पहले समाचार-पत्रों से और जो पब्लिशर्स हैं, प्रकाशक हैं, उन से परामर्श किया जायेगा। इस सम्बन्ध में मैंने कुछ संशोधनों की सूचना भी दी है कि पत्रकारों के परामर्श को किस रूप में लेना चाहिये। जैसा मैं ने राज्य सभा की कार्यवाही में पढ़ा, माननीय मंत्री जी का कहना है कि इस कार्य का सम्बन्ध बिजिनेस साइड से नहीं है। लेकिन मैं इस सम्बन्ध में बड़ी विनम्रता के साथ अपना मतभेद प्रकट करना चाहता हूं, क्योंकि हो सकता है कि बहुत से पत्रों के मालिक इस बात का तर्क पेश करें कि चूंकि वे पत्रकारों का वेतन बढ़ा रहे हैं इसलिये वे मूल्य नियंत्रण के नियम को पूरा नहीं कर सकते। यह सम्पादक व पत्रकार जो अखबारों में काम कर रहे हैं, जिन्हों ने देश के लिये एक बड़ा अच्छा स्तर स्थापित किया है, एक आदर्श सामने रक्खा है, उन में ऐसे भी लोग हैं जो कि अखबारों की सारी मैशीनरी को जानते हैं, अतः मैं चाहता हूं कि उन का भी परामर्श ले लिया जाये, जैसा सुझाव श्री जयपाल सिंह जी ने दिया कि अगर प्रैस कौंसिल (प्रेस परिषद्) इस देश में होती तो यह अनिवार्य था कि उस से परामर्श लिया जाता, लेकिन चूंकि इस के बनाने में अभी काफी देर लगेगी, इसलिये मैं इस पर जोर नहीं देना चाहता हालांकि, जैसा कि बहुत से

साथियों ने कहा है कि प्रैस कौंसिल से परामर्श लिया जाये और अगर ऐसा हो सकता तो बहुत अच्छा होता ।

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहूंगा वह मूल तथा पृष्ठ के बारे में जो नियम बनने वाले हैं, उन के सम्बन्ध में है । हम लोग श्रम जीवी पत्रकारों वाले विधेयक से बहुत आशा किये हुए थे, लेकिन अब वह एक प्रकार से कहीं निराशा में परिणत न हो जाये । अब तक वह नियम इस सदन के सामने आ नहीं सके, लेकिन क्या हम यह विश्वास करें कि सन् १९५६ के अन्त तक , या वर्तमान पार्लियामेंट के जीवन की समाप्ति के पहले इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत बनने वाले नियम स्वीकृत हो जायेंगे । कहीं ऐसा न हो, कि जैसाकि लोग कह रहे हैं कि सन् १९५७ आ रहा है, गदर होने वाला है, पार्लियामेंट बदलने वाली है, सरकार बदलने वाली है, युग परिवर्तन होने वाला है, तब तक के लिये यह टल जाये । कम से कम हम लोगों को यह ख्याल रखना चाहिये कि सन् १९५६ की समाप्ति के पहले इस विधेयक के अन्तर्गत जो अधिकार हम ले रहे हैं, उन के अनुसार मूल्य निर्धारण हो जाना चाहिये ।

डा० केसकर : जरूर होगा ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : धन्यवाद ।

5 P.M.

अब एक बात की ओर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान और आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं । मैं मंत्री जी का आभारी हूं कि उन्हों ने अपने कर्तव्य में यह कहा कि हम हिन्दी और दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओं के जो समाचारपत्र हैं उन की रक्षा के लिये तथा उन का विकास करने के लिये ही मुख्यतः यह विधेयक ला रहे हैं । मैं उन की उस भावना का आदर करते हुए उन के ध्यान में कुछ बातें लाना चाहता हूं । उन की इतनी उत्कट इच्छा होते हुए भी तथा सुयोग्य हाथों में इस मंत्रालय का कार्यभार होते हुए भी, मैं यह कहे बिना नहीं रह सकता कि हिन्दी और भारतीय भाषाओं के दूसरे समाचार पत्रों के साथ अभी भी अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं हो रहा है । मुझे प्रेस इन्फारमेशन ब्यूरो की जानकारी है । वहां पर अंग्रेजी के अखबारों को ही प्रधानता दी जाती है । यहां तक कि अंग्रेजी अखबारों की तो १६-१६ प्रतियां ली जाती हैं, जबकि दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचारपत्रों की एक-एक और दो-दो ही प्रतियां ली जाती हैं । प्रतियां लेने के आधार पर ही मैं कोई उदाहरण नहीं, देना चाहता । पर इस का मतलब यह होता है कि इन समाचार पत्रों में जनता की समस्याओं के बारे में जो बहुत से समाचार व विचार निकलते हैं उन को शायद हमारे मंत्रालय महत्व नहीं देते हैं । यह दृष्टिकोण का प्रश्न है ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने पहले भी कई बार आश्वासन दिया है कि विज्ञापन देते समय जो छोटे छोटे अखबार हैं, जो हिन्दी के समाचार-पत्र हैं, जो दूसरी भारतीय भाषाओं के समाचार-पत्र हैं, उन का विशेष ध्यान रखा जायगा और उन को हर प्रकार से प्रोत्साहन देने की चेष्टा की जायेगी ; जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है इस आश्वासन पर अमल नहीं हो रहा है । इसलिये इस ओर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता था. . . . .

डा० केसकर : मैं माननीय सदस्य को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि नान-इंग्लिश पेपर्स को कितना दिया जा रहा है और इंग्लिश पेपर्स को कितना दिया जा रहा है इस को बिना जाने इस तरह का विधान यहां करना गलत होगा ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मैं केवल इस ओर आपका ध्यान दिलाना चाहता था । मुझे प्रसन्नता होगी यदि मेरा अनुमान गलत सिद्ध हो । मैं केवल इतना ही कहना चाहता था कि उन के प्रयत्नों के बावजूद भी अभी तक पूरी तरह इस चीज पर अमल नहीं हुआ है ।

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करता हूं और आशा करता हूं कि इसे जल्दी से जल्दी स्वीकार कर लिया जायेगा ।

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: I now call upon Shri D. C. Sharma. It is very difficult to recognise whether the hon. Member has risen in his seat or not.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: The hon. Member should stand up on the bench.

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I thank you, Sir, for the compliment that you have paid to me and the compliment is very well deserved. But I do not come here to thank you for the compliment but to offer my congratulations to the Minister of Information and Broadcasting for bringing this measure before the House.

I have seen the sorry fate of reports of Committees and Commissions in this House. Committees are appointed; Commissions are appointed; they consist of very distinguished persons; they collect evidence; they go about from one part of the country to another; they take the trouble of writing the reports; some persons take the trouble of writing also minutes of dissent. But after that has been done, the reports are put in cold storage and one never hears about them. And if one hears about them, one hears about them in the context which is not always favourable to them. But I must say that the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting appointed the Press Commission. The Press Commission Report is a monument of labour, hard thinking and valuable suggestions. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, acting upon the old adage, step by step has tried to implement most of the recommendations of the Press Commission. I wish other Ministries also could do something like that.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Appoint more Commissions.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I do not want them to appoint more Commissions, but I do want them to take the Commissions seriously which they have already appointed and to implement the Reports which they already have got. My friend, Shri Feroze Gandhi, knows what I have in my heart because he knows me and I know him But I also welcome this measure because it is democratic. Democracy stands for the common man, for the small man, if I could use that expression. Democracy does not stand for protecting and safeguarding the interests of the upper classes or few other persons at the top; it stands for protecting the small man and the common man. This measure is in consonance with the spirit of democracy which we are trying in this country, because without taking away anything from anybody or any newspaper, it is going to safeguard the interests of the language newspapers.

I read English newspapers every day and language newspapers every day but I think when our generation goes away..the English newspaper win here a thin time.

An Hon. Member: Not so.

Shri D. C. Sharma: He may be immortal, but I am mortal. When our generation goes away....

An Hon. Member: We will not let you go.

Shri D. C. Sharma: For every five persons who read English newspaper today, there will hardly be one who will read an English newspaper at that time and the English newspaper may boast of its past glory, may boast of

5-07 P.M.

[SHRI BARMAN in the chair]

its past achievements, but the English newspaper will not have much to do. The future belongs to the language newspapers, and they are going to occupy the stage in every part of India. If you go to a village or a small town, you do not find the English newspaper in the bazaar or streets or homes there; you find people reading language newspapers.

Our language newspaper have come to stay and have to mould public opinion in India in the years to come. But so far the language newspaper have been having a very precarious sort of life. It is because we have been dominated by other factors and other things. But I believe that by means of this measure we are going to give a reasonable chance of existence to the language newspapers, and that is not only in consonance with the democratic principles for which we stand, but also in consonance with the democratic principles which we have in our Constitution.

Again I believe that I have been seeing a strange phenomenon in this country after the Partition. When I was in the United Punjab, I used to see papers which could be called provincial papers, papers of provincial importance. I also could see some papers which could be described as papers of all-India importance, but I used to find so many papers, and good papers at that, which used to be run at the district level. All those papers used to serve a very important purpose; they used to canalise the opinion of a particular region in very healthy channels. But what do I find after the Partition? After the Partition I find that those district papers have disappeared; the big fish have eaten the small fish; the big papers have swallowed the small papers. I tell you that democracy will not depend on the big papers; they have so many interests to serve. Democracy will be served much more by the small papers, by the regional papers and by the language papers than by any other papers. These big papers, as my friend, Shri Jaipal Singh, said he was a member of the Press Commission —are there and you can forecast their opinion on any subject under discussion. Without opening them, you can know what they are going to say on a particular thing or problem. Their minds move in a particular groove. But the small newspapers have a freshness of outlook and independence of opinion and independence of judgment, which, I am afraid, these big newspapers do not have. So, this Bill is meant for the protection of the smaller newspapers and hence, I welcome it.

Advertisements are good; I do not say that they are bad. It is the age of advertisements and no paper can live without advertisements. But advertisements do not always exercise a wholesome effect on the newspapers which publish them. I wish one of my colleagues had been here to tell you how some of these advertisements lead to a lack of freedom of expression and independent judgment.

We are a great country. We are perhaps the second largest nation in the world in the production of films. I would ask you to read the reviews of these films published in the papers. You will see how much of independence these papers have. They dare not expose their true worth; they dare not call a film bad because those film magnates give them advertisements, which bring them money. This money keeps the wheels of the printing press and other things moving. It means that we are going to limit this also. So, this will be very helpful from that point of view also.

Again, I would say that this is going to cut at the root of unfair competition. Here is my friend, Shri Moitra, who has been associated with so many daily papers. What was the fate of those papers? They were very good papers, I know. But, they could not carry on because of this unfair competition. So, this is a good provision that we are having.

I would make one suggestion. You are going to promulgate the orders after consulting only the associations of publishers. My feeling is that it is not only the publishers who bring out these newspapers. The newspapers are co-operative concern. The editors and the working journalists have as much to do with these newspapers as the publishers. So, before the hon. Minister promulgates any order, he should call for a tripartite conference of publishers, editors and working journalists.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: They will break each other's heads.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Only then he should promulgate the orders. My friend; Shri Feroze Gandhi says that they will break each other's heads.

Shri Feroze Gandhi: Including the Minister's.

Shri D. C. Sharma: If they break each other's heads, nobody would be sorry. It is only the big newspapers that would break each other's head and the small man will not break anybody's head and he will also see that his own head is preserved. These orders should also be placed before the House so that we can have a look at them as early as possible.

I welcome this measure and I do not think that it is going to put any kind of curb on the freedom of expression. Some felt that it was going to be a curb but it has been contradicted. I have been reading some papers and I found that the people had taken kindly to this measure. The newspapers have taken this measure in good humour and they have taken it more or less as a settled fact. Therefore, I think that this measure is going to do a lot of good to our democracy and to our country and I hope the orders issued will be placed before this House as early as possible.

Shri M. K. Moitra (Calcutta-North-West): Sir, the history of journalism in this country is associted with the history of the freedom movement. Journals appeared in this country to play the role of opposition against the British imperialists. Shri Jaipal Singh told us today that in foreign countries like U.K., journalism has set up a standard. Yes; it has set up a standard. We are reminded of Lord Northcliffe who has been described as the stock-exchange man of journalism. We know that it was he who set to winds all ethics of journalism and to whom success meant everything; it was success that he admired. That ideal of Northcliffe crept into this land where journalism was a profession and where journalists took it up as a mission.

During the thirties of this century, when the Gandhi movement was at its full swing, the foreign advertisers took it into their heads to control the tone of the newspapers and the then Government helped them. I know that in 1930, when the Indian journals were waging a war against foreign goods and were publishing headlines: 'Boycott British goods', there came a request I should say that it was a request—from the foreign advertisers, that, if the headline 'Boycott British goods' was used, then, all foreign advertisements would be stopped. Some of the papers submitted to that and that was the black day in the journalism in India.

After that, we have seen in the Government reports that instances are not rare where the Government publicity officers have infiltrated editorials written in the Government secretariat to national newspapers; they have been published. The price that was given to those newspapers was the judicious distribution of advertisements under the control of the Government. This judicious distribution of advertisements still continues and if I may be permitted to say so, I must say that free expression of opinion is still a casualty, even in free India.

The Bill proposes to give some protection to smaller newspapers against unequal competition from bigger ones who have established themselves by the income from foreign advertisements and Government advertisements. We know that big papers do not stand on their sales. Big papers can distribute their papers free, if they can get advertisements. It is advertisement that they want to draw and they do not care for distribution of news. Therefore, any measure to help the growth of smaller newspapers, to help the growth of district papers will be welcome.

Sir, it is necessary that our papers should give publicity to the creative

activities of the people. If you open a big paper, you will find that in a ten-page paper there are about 80 columns, and out of those 80 columns 40 are occupied by advertisements and out of the remaining 40 columns about 20 or 25 columns are taken up by international news with the result that the news of this country gets very little space. What we want is that the news of the activities of the people of this country must get a prominent place in newspapers, and for this reason we want that newspapers in the districts must be developed. They must be made free from undue competition from bigger newspapers. This Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill alone cannot help the growth of that free Press, the growth of that independent Press in mofussil areas. Sir, something more is needed.

During the course of these 9 years we have not seen that in post offices and telegraph offices teleprinter lines have been installed to transit messages through teleprinters at a cheaper rate. That would have helped the growth of this language Press. Then, the language Press has, in this year of Grace, to translate news from English. That is a handicap. In the course of these 9 years our Government have not been able to make arrangements for transmitting news service in our mother tongues, in the national languages prevailing in this country. Over and above that, what we require today is the Statutory Board for distribution of newsprint. One of my previous hon. speakers has said that not a single inch of newsprint is manufactured in India and all our requirements have to be imported from foreign countries like Finland, Scandinavia, Austria and others. So, along with this price-page schedule, if you want the growth of smaller papers, you will have to establish the Statutory Board for distribution of newsprint; otherwise the purpose for which this Bill is being passed will be frustrated.

Now, I come to this Bill. If you look to clause 2, you will see that "daily newspaper" means a newspaper which is published on not less than six days in a week. We know that big newspapers are published for seven days a week and they are registered under the Press and Registration of Books Act. There are two kinds of newspapers. First of all there is the newspaper that is published for six days in a week, and then there is the Sunday newspaper. The Sunday newspaper is registered under the Press and Registration of Books Act as a separate newspaper. When you will fix this price-page schedule, will you take into consideration these two kinds of newspapers? I want to know whether those newspapers which publish for six days and then also publishes a Sunday edition will be taken as a single daily newspapers, or will the six-day edition papers will be taken as daily newspapers and the Sunday editions will be taken as weekly newspapers where they will get extra benefits of a weekly newspaper. That is the first question which I hope the Minister will clearify.

Then sub-clause (4) of clause 3 says: "in making the price-page schedule the Government will consult the associations of publishers." Here there are two recognised associations of publishers: the India and Eastern Newspaper Society and the Indian Language Newspaper Association. The subscription for the India and Eastern Newspaper Society is Rs. 1000 a year and no small newspapers can become its member. So, when you consult the associations of publishers, you really consult the bigger newspapers against whose interests you want to protect the smaller newspapers. Will the Minister be pleased to give us an assurance that he will make some arrangements for consulting the smaller newspapers when this price-page schedule is fixed?

The Minister while moving the motion for consideration of the Bill has expressed his anxiety for healthy

[Shri M. K. Moitra]

growth of the smaller newspapers, and in the course of his speech he said that he was anxious to give some sort of protection to the smaller newspapers. We would like to know whether he wants to give this protection in the shape of some subsidies to these smaller newspapers If he proposes to give subsidies to smaller newspapers, we will oppose it. We hope the Minister will clarify.

Dr. Keskar: There is no intention of giving any subsidy.

Shri M. K. Moitra: You suggested protection; what will be the shape of it?

Dr. Keskar: Fixing a reasonable minimum price is a protection.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Then there is another thing. We want to know whether these newspapers will be given bonus pages on occasions, say, in a month, when they will be allowed to publish some 10, 20 or 30 extra-pages. It has been stated in the Bill that on national occasions like the observance of the Republic Day and on the 15th August, these newspapers will be given concession to publish extra pages. Will the same privilege be extended to leftist papers when on the 9th of August or on May Day or some other day to commemorate the revolutionary activities they will also be anxious to issue some extra pages?

Shri Jaipal Singh: Why not?

Shri M. K. Moitra: If this privilege is granted to bigger newspapers, the same privilege should be granted to leftist papers.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): Now leftist papers have begun to observe Independence Day.

Dr. Keskar: Whatever privilege is granted, it is granted to all newspapers.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Sir, I thank the hon. Minister. Whatever privileges he wants to give to bigger newspapers will also be extended to smaller ones, especially the leftist ones. I am thankful to him for that.

With these few words I support the principle underlying the Bill and I hope, along with the fixation of price-page schedule the Government will see its way to establish the Statutory Board for distribution of newsprint, because, unless newsprint is made easily available in mofussil areas, unless newsprint is made easily available to smaller newspapers, this price-page schedule will not serve the purpose for which it has been made.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi (Nellore): Sir, I feel that I am in a very embarrassing position inasmuch as my voice might be a lone one in expressing a doubt and dissatisfaction at a Bill like this. Instead of bringing a comprehensive Bill on the floor of the House, we have been given bits of Bills concerning a few aspects of the Press Commission's Report, and this Bill seems to be less desirable and less sound of all the recommendations that have been made by the Press Commission.

I do not in the least suggest that the smaller papers which require protection should not be protected. But, at the same time, I would say that there is no need to have an overall control of the type that this Bill wants on the established newspapers. I take this opportunity of telling the House that in between the proprietor, the worker or the working journalist and the Government, the consumer seems to be very much hard-hit for the simple reason that the control that is now envisaged to be placed on the freedom of the Press will certainly affect the interests of the consumer.

The Bill mainly proposes, as noticed in clause 3, to regulate the prices charged for newspapers and to fix the maximum or minimum number of pages and also stipulate the sizes and areas of papers and lastly it seeks to prescribe the space

to be allotted for the advertising mater in relation to other matters therein. Everyone of these things that have been noticed in clause 3 requires the very careful attention and also the careful consideration at the hands of the Government.

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[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

They are very important especially in view of the fact that very large powers are vested in the hands of the Press Registrar who is appointed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867. The Government are likely to invest in his hands dictatorial powers to deal with the papers in any fashion that he likes and also to squeeze out some of those bigger papers with a view to help papers of the Government's own liking. The Bill imposes that there should be no increase in pages without increase in the price. On the contrary, the Bill also says that there should be no reduction in price without reducing the pages. These two things are very difficult to be encountered by any decent, established newspaper which has been catering to the consumers or the readers. By a pushing up of the price as is now envisaged in the Bill, the consumer certainly suffers, and it is not known to what extent the big papers have been able to squeeze out the smaller ones. It has now become more or less a fashion to decry everything that is supposed to be big and encourage, at least verbally, everything that is supposed to be small.

I am unable to understand how far an unfair competition by the established papers against the smaller papers has been proved. As a matter of fact, the advertisement revenue to the bigger papers is more or less the mainstay of those papers and they can make the paper more attractive by having a larger number of features in the paper, and that is evidently supported by a large volume of advertisement which they can command. In fact, the advertiser does not advertise in a paper as a matter of favour, but he thinks that he will certainly get the return for the money that he spends on advertisement by way of orders and publicity through the largely circulated papers. It is not a favour that is shown, but, it is, on the other hand, the utility point of view that is taken into consideration by the advertiser. No question of favour comes in, unless the advertiser is the Government. Government, as has been pointed out by several hon. Members, can show favouritism to certain papers that can cater to their needs and can publicise their greatness. It is, therefore, not desirable that favouritism should be imported into the public Press and that the Government should, in any form, come in the way of circulation or the size of papers.

I could also mention that some of the weekly papers, especially the language papers, do not exist throughout the time. Some do exist from time to time; some come into existence all of a sudden just before election time.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Because they are weak.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: Is there any provision in this Bill that such papers will be watched and be eschewed in the matter of any support or protection that the Government are going to give? Or, is the Government going to ignore that fact and say that, whatever might be the tenure of the paper or the life of the paper, simply because it is a small paper or a new paper it must be protected at all stages and by all means? I do not think that that is the idea of the Government. But how could they discriminate between such papers and some other papers which are already established ones in the weekly sector? I feel that the very basis of the Bill seems to be due to a certain amount of pressure for enacting a law of this type. I do not know from whom the pressure

[Shri Ramachandra Reddi]

comes, but symptoms are there to show that unless there has been some pressure they would not have attempted to frame a Bill like this.

Much power is now sought to be given to the Press Registrar. He is going to be a dictator and he is going to be invested with the powers of punishing any paper in any manner whatever.

Dr. Keskar: How can they be punished?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: By making a complaint, whether it is right or wrong.

Dr. Keskar: Where is the power given in the Bill for the Press Registrar to punish anybody?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: There are certain things mentioned in clause 5. There, powers are given to him in the matter of securing "weekly returns and statistics with respect to any of the particulars referred to in section 3 as the Press Registrar may, from time to time, require and the publisher of every newspaper shall comply with such direction". Further, "if any newspaper is published or sold in contravention of section 4, the publisher of the newspaper shall, on first conviction, be punishable" etc.

Dr. Keskar: Punishable by the court and not by the Press Registrar.

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: How? It can be only on the complaint of the Press Registrar. Otherwise, the courts cannot take cognizance of the offence. The Press Registrar is the complainant. That is what I could understand from this Bill.

In clause 7, the courts also have been deprived of the power of taking any cognizance until there is a complaint by the Press Registrar. The clause says:

> "No court shall take cognizance of any offence punishable under this Act except upon a complaint in writing by the Press Registrar appointed under the Press and Registration of Books Act, 1867...."

So, either way, there must be a complaint from the Press Registrar. These provisions seem to be very harsh and probably dictatorial powers are going to be invested in the hands of the Press Registrar.

I would not grudge giving any subsidies by the Government to some of these papers which require them. But, is it possible for the Government to give subsidies to all such papers? How can they discriminate between a good paper and a bad paper? If any question of subsidy comes in, naturally they would like to support their own party papers rather than other papers.

Dr. Keskar: Where is the question of a good paper and a bad paper?

Shri Ramachandra Reddi: A good paper from the point of view of Government will be a paper which supports the Government; and, a bad paper from the point of view of Government will be a paper which does not support the Government. I am only saying how it is not possible to give a subsidy as things stand today. Therefore, I suggest that the matter has to be carefully gone into and whatever amendments are necessary to make the newspaper industry a safer and healthier one should be made. Otherwise, the newspaper industry will be very much hit; more than the industry itself, the consumers will be much more hit.

Mulla Abdullabhai (Chanda): There is no quorum in the House.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The bell is being rung. Now, there is quorum.

Dr. Suresh Chandra: The hon. Minister deserves congratulations for bringing this Bill before the House. There has been a desire of the whole House that all the recommendations

of the Press Commission should be implemented by the Government. In pursuance of those recommendations, this Bill has been brought in here. I only wish the hon. Minister had brought a comprehensive and consolidated Bill implementing all the recommendations made by the Press Commission. However, even if the recommendations are being implemented step by step by pieces of legislation, it is welcome.

As has been pointed out, the purpose of this Bill is to provide for the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their pages. It has been made clear by Mr. Jaipal Singh and also by Mr. Gurupadaswamy that there is no question of fixing a maximum or minimum number of pages. It is a question of fixing the prices for newspapers in relation to the maximum or minimum number of pages. This Bill therefore, will help the smaller papers in the country.

Mr. Reddi has said that it has become a fashion of the day in this country to support smaller things and decry bigger things. I do not know whether it is the fashion or not; but, I feel it is in the fitness of things to support the smaller things which do not get protection from anybody. If the Government comes forward with a legislation to protect the interests of the smaller people or the smaller interests, then the Government deserves congratulations for that. Therefore, this is really a matter for congratulating the Government.

Objection has been raised by some Members to clause 3(4) which provides that the Government shall consult associations of publishers and such publishers likely to be affected by the order. I feel that this is a necessary and important clause. There is no need for any amendment to this clause. Whenever an order has to be issued, it is the Government which is going to deal with the publishers in regard to the prices and the number of pages. Therefore, it has to consult the associations of publishers and also such publishers which are bound to be affected by the order.

I only want to say one thing with regard to the regional press, the importance of which has been emphasised by the hon. Minister. As we all know, in this country the newspapers flourish on account of the bulk advertisements which they get, and as referred to by the Minister, the bulk of the advertisements comes from foreign countries and mainly they go to the English newspapers. It is very unfair that the bulk of the advertisement revenue should go only to English papers. We know that in a few years, time, the importance of English is going to decrease and the importance of the regional languages is going to increase. Therefore, it is very necessary that the distribution of advertisements should also be fair and even more than fair to the language newspapers. Then only we shall be able to build up a healthy regional Press in our country and give news to the people at large at reasonable and cheap prices.

In conclusion, I welcome this measure which has been brought in by the Minister and I congratulate him for this.

Dr. Keskar: I am glad that the consensus of opinion in the House is emphatically and definitely in favour of this measure. My friend, Mr. Reddi's, has been the lone and strong voice against the Bill. I have carefully heard his arguments against such a legislation. At the time of the Press Commission debate, we also found that parliamentary opinion in general was strongly in favour of Government taking up the question of such a legislation. When Shri Ramachandra Reddi referred to pressure, he was hinting very darkly at a certain sort of pressure. There has been pressure. The pressure has been from the newspapers, from Parliament. Naturally, Government has to pay heed to what Parliament

[Dr. Keskar]

says and also what the newspapers, as a whole, say. If we have accepted that pressure, I plead guilty to what Shri Ramachandra Reddi has charged me with. I may assure him there has been no other pressure. In fact, I am personally reluctant to proceed with such a measure because it burdens you with a very difficult responsibility. Because you fix any price and there is bound to be somebody who will say, the rate does not suit me, therefore, I agree, the Government should not have fallen this up. Always you are the target of criticism. This responsibility is not something which we want to accept lightly or with pleasure. But, as I said, it is the opinion of the majority of the press and a very pressing opinion which has asked for this. We would have been guilty of not heeding public opinion in the press circles if we had not brought this Bill before the House.

I would like to refer to two or three points very briefly regarding certain general principles which were raised here. Firstly, many hon. Members have referred to the report of the Press Commission, and said that we have been very slow in implementing the recommendations in that report. I might say on behalf of the Government that it is an unfair charge. As I said before, when we put in a detailed statement regarding all the recommendations of the Press Commission, that there are only a few recommendations of the Commission in which the Commission has directed the Government to pass legislation. Of these, the main thing which is pending is the matter of the Press Council. Legislation regarding the Press Council has already been introduced in the Rajya Sabha. It is really unfair even now to come forward and accuse the Government of being remiss or reluctant and delaying the implementation of the recommendation of the Commission. There are a large number of recommendations,—other recommendations, I mean—which are addressed to the industry, journalists and others. No doubt, they should pay heed to them. We will certainly press them to pay heed to the recommendations of the Commission. But, you should not ask the Government to take up legislation for that purpose. That was not also the intention of the Press Commission at any time.

The first question to which I would like to refer is the question of not giving a schedule here. Though I quite sympathise with the desire expressed by the Members—I wish myself that the Members had some idea regarding it—I feel that it is not at all a practicable proposition. It is not a question of the rules being presented to Parliament or some schedule or draft schedule being presented to Parliament. It is a question of fixing rates for newspapers, which rates may vary in two months or six months, because the rates of newspapers depend on many factors, as hon. Members who have anything to do with newspapers know. For example, tomorrow if the price of newsprint goes up, suddenly, it will not be possible for the newspapers to adhere to the particular rates that may be fixed, or we may have an intention to fix. Suppose we take up draft rates and keep them pending dependent on the vote of this House, it will play a great havoc in the industry. That is not right. If hon. Members refer to other industries, they will see that where the question is of fixing rates or prices, it is done by executive order. It is always open to the House—it has got the inherent power—to call the Government to account if it takes a wrong decision. But, I think the hon. Members will be putting the newspaper industry in a very unfair position if they ask that every time the rates are fixed, there should be a prior discussion here and after discussion and voting here only the rate should be fixed. That would keep the newspapers in a very uncertain position. It may even lead to a very undesirable sort of lobbying for a particular type of rates or prices. I therefore hope that they will not insist that such a

thing should be done. If my friend Shri Gurupadaswámy feels, for example, that Government have fixed wrong rates, he can certainly call Government to account. That can always be done. Parliament has got the power always to do that.

Shri Kamath: He cannot call you, only your party can.

Dr. Keskar: If Government is taking this action it is not because we do not want such a thing to be put before Parliament, but because purely from a practical point of view it is not a possibility. It can always be discussed later, and if anything wrong has been done, Members can draw the attention of Government and it can be rectified.

The third point which I would like to emphasize is that there should not be any misunderstanding that when we are trying to fix the prices of papers for a certain maximum number of pages we are in any way trying to stifle newspaper competition. That would be a very wrong thing to do, because the excellence of a newspaper does depend on competition. If there is no incentive for a newspaper, for example, to gain in circulation or in prestige or popularity, then there will be no excellence in it. Here, what is aimed at is that there should be, as I said in the very beginning, no unfair and unjournalistic sort of competition for beating the opposite paper. That is what we are trying to stop. We are not trying to stop or come in the way of competition. We think there should be competition. Papers should by their attractive material and other legitimate things try to gain more readers and more circulation. That is very legitimate and I do not think we should come in the way of that. In fact, we should try to help them. I am mentioning this because some friends think that this action is taken only to protect the smaller papers. It is meant to stop unfair competition amongst papers, unfair cutting of prices, cornering of readers and such sort of thing, and also protection to the smaller papers in order that they, by the quality of their service, might build themselves up. So, there is no bar to competition. It is not coming in the way of those papers which want to go forward, to increase their circulation. This can be judged only from this, that in Great Britain where the price-page schedule has been existing for more than 15 years now, there are papers with a circulation of three to four million and fixing the rate does not come in the way of their circulation.

Lastly—I am talking of the general points—I would like to mention the important point of the freedom of the press. This I mentioned in the beginning and explained that this cannot be considered at any time as a curb on the freedom of the press. In fact, I would go further and say that if fair prices are charged by newspapers, it might permit even a better freedom of the press than what exists today. This point has been stressed by a number of papers, and as I said in the beginning we ourselves have taken this rather onerous task at the behest of the press and Parliament. We ourselves are reluctant any time to come and intervene in any matter concerning the freedom of the press. We do not want all sorts of legislation. It is only when press opinion and parliamentary opinion have compelled that we have been coming forward with these pieces of legislation. Therefore Government should not be accused of trying to control this and that. Whatever we are doing, we are doing in the general interests, in the interests of the press itself.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Has the hon. Minister concluded?

Dr. Keskar: I will finish in five minutes.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If the House agrees to sit for a few minutes more, we might finish this.

Dr. Keskar: Certain points have been raised by my friends here. The important point is that we have not mentioned here in the Bill that we will consult journalists, editors etc. Now, though nobody can say that we do not realise the importance

[Dr. Keskar]

of the working journalists and editors, this is a matter concerning the business side of a paper. We will be consulting a number of people, all interests concerned. I regret to say that I am unable to accept the view that because a journalist, however good a journalist he may be, is working there, he has a right to advise what the price should be because the price of a paper concerns the management. We are bound to consult those who are dealing with it, who are managing it. We are getting the opinion from all; but we do not accept all the opinion. Out of that we will take what we consider best in the general interest of the press as a whole. I do not agree that in this matter the editors and journalists should obligatorily be consulted. I have no objection to consulting them but I do not think they are mainly concerned with it; only the management or the business side of a paper is mainly concerned with it. It might be that there is a co-operative paper and in that case this question may arise. But in ordinary papers it does not arise. Of course, hon. Members might disagree with me and I do not say that they should agree with me. But I am not able to see any reason why obligatorily we should consult them.

6 P.M.

Shri K. P. Tripathi (Darrang): Since you are not accepting the opinion, what is the harm in consulting them?

Dr. Keskar: I am speaking about "obligatorily consulting". I will certainly consult all those who are interested in the press. That I can assure.

Shri Kamath: Informal consultation.

Dr. Keskar: Certainly. Then there has been attack on the Press Registrar. A point was raised as to why the Press Registrar alone has been given the power. The Government has taken the task of enforcing the price page schedule and naturally Government must have some agent who will take up the work of seeing that this is enforced and that the newspapers are not contravening it. It cannot be left with everybody in the street to see that the schedule is being obeyed by the newspapers. For this purpose some responsible person has to be named who will take up the question and see whether the newspapers are following the schedule or not and if anybody is not observing the schedule, a complaint has to be lodged.

Shri M. K. Moitra: Probably, the hon. Minister has misunderstood it. The point raised was that it depends on the sweet will of the Press Registrar to institute an application before a court. If he does not like, he may not file an application and no step will be taken.

Dr. Keskar: If a Press Registrar does not file such an application and permits a flagrant disobedience of the schedule by newspapers, I don't think for long he can remain as Press Registrar. It is not possible. We are dealing with the most vocal section of our people, that is the press and I think my hon. friend should be reasonable and should expect the Press Registrar to do his duty.

Shri M. K. Moitra: We are grateful to the hon. Minister for the assurance he has given. But we were afraid because after being guilty of such flagrant violation, Government servants are still in service.

Dr. Keskar: The hon. Member can certainly bring the Government to book for that.

Shri Kamath: It is easier said than done.

Dr. Keskar: There is another question regarding the important point of supplements. If the hon. Member who mentioned this reads the Bill very carefully, it will be very clear to

him that this refers only to supplements on occasions of special importance and no commercial supplement is allowed under this. There is no special provision going to be made for commercial supplements. But I think it is reasonable that we should expect our papers, small and big, to bring up, for example, supplement for Independence Day. Only for one or two or three very important occasions this will be allowed and a very small quota will be given. But commercial supplements are completely outside the purview of the supplements mentioned here. That I can assure and he need not carry the suspicion that by this backdoor papers will be allowed more quota than they ought to get.

Then, certain rates had been mentioned. I might say that the question of what price per page should be charged etc. is too premature to discuss here. We propose, after the Bill is passed, to call the newspapers, small and big, and have a thorough discussion with them, before we prepare any schedule. And I might assure my hon. friends who have mentioned rates that whatever they have mentioned will also be carefully taken into consideration at that time.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Is that all?

Dr. Keskar: These are the main points that I wanted to make.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The question is:

> "That the Bill to provide for the regulation of the prices charged for newspapers in relation to their pages and of matters connected therewith for the purpose of preventing unfair competition among newspapers so that newspapers may have fuller opportunities of freedom of expression, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.".

The motion was adopted.

GYPSUM

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: The House will now take up the half-an-hour discussion on gypsum.

श्री भक्त दर्शन (जिला गढ़वाल–पूर्व व जिला मुरादाबाद–उत्तर-पूर्व) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, १३ अगस्त को मेरे मित्र श्री सी० आर० नरसिंहन् साहब ने तारांकित प्रश्न संख्या १०१८ प्राकृतिक संसाधन मंत्री महोदय से इस आशय का पूछा था कि हमारे देश में जब जिप्सम पूरी मात्रा में हो रहा है तब उसे सिदरी फर्टिलाइजर फैक्टरी तथा दूसरे कारखानों के लिए विदेशों से और खासकर पाकिस्तान से मंगाने की क्या आवश्यकता है ? इसीलिए यह आध घंटे का विवाद यहां प्रारम्भ किया जा रहा है, और मुझे आशा है कि माननीय उत्पादन मंत्री जी इस प्रश्न पर प्रकाश डालेंगे कि किस कारण से अपने देश के अन्दर जिप्सम पूरी मात्रा में होते हुए भी बाहर से जिप्सम मंगाना पड़ रहा है ।

जहां तक हमारे देश में जिप्सम के उत्पादन का प्रश्न है, सरकारी आंकड़ों से ज्ञात होता है कि सन् १९५२ में हमारे देश में ४,११,२०४ टन जिप्सम निकाला गया, सन् १९५३ में ५,८५,८३९ टन निकाला गया, और सन् १९५४ में ६,१२,००० टन जिप्सम हमारे देश में निकाला गया, अर्थात् प्रत्येक वर्ष में हमारे देशके अन्दर इस मामले में प्रगति होती चली जा रही है और अधिक से अधिकतर मात्रा में जिप्सम का उत्पादन हो रहा है ।

Shri T. B. Vittal Rao (Khammam): Will the Minister understand Hindi?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: If he has no objection, then, he must be following.

Shri A. M. Thomas (Ernakulam): A doubt has been expressed whether the Minister can follow Hindi or not.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: That should be for the Minister to say. If he has any difficulty, he will express it.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : मेरा अनुमान है कि माननीय उत्पादन मंत्री महोदय यद्यपि हिन्दी में

[श्री भक्त दर्शन]

बोल नहीं सकते, लेकिन वह मेरे आशय को समझ सकते हैं ।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य अपना भाषण जारी रखें ।

श्री भक्त दर्शन : हमारे देश में इस समय जो खानें जिप्सम के सम्बन्ध में चल रही हैं उनके सम्बन्ध में जिआलाजीकल (भूतत्वीय) विभाग ने आंकड़े दिये हैं, उनसे ज्ञात होता है कि राजस्थान में बीकानेर और जोधपुर में विशेषकर जिप्सम निकलता है, उसके बाद मद्रास के तिरुचिरापल्ली में निकलता है और उसके बाद कच्छ और सौराष्ट्र में मिलता है । इसके सिवा काश्मीर में, हिमाचल प्रदेश में और उत्तर प्रदेश में ऋषिकेश और लछमनझूला के पास भी जिप्सम पाया गया है । इससे यह ज्ञात होता है कि जितना जिप्सम हमको चाहिए उतना हमारे देश में मिल सकता है । सरकारी आंकड़ों से यह भी ज्ञात होता है कि जिप्सम के हमारे रिजर्व ७४ मिलियन टन हैं, यानी अनेक वर्षों तक हमारे देश में जिप्सम की कमी नहीं हो सकती ।

जब हमारे देश में यह हालत है तब मैं उत्पादन मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूं कि जैसा कि १३ तारीख को एक पूरक प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा गया है कि देश के अन्दर इतनी मात्रा में जिप्सम होता है, तो फिर पाकिस्तान से क्यों मंगाया जा रहा है ? उस तारीख को पूरक प्रश्न करने पर हमसे कहा गया था कि यह प्रश्न उत्पादन मंत्रालय से पूछा जाना चाहिए । बाद में जब यह पूछा गया कि क्या उत्पादन मंत्रालय या दूसरे विभाग सिंदरी के लिए अथवा दूसरे कारखानों के लिए पूरी मात्रा में जिप्सम दे सकते हैं या नहीं तो श्री केशव देव मालवीय जी के शब्द ये थे :

> "We have got a fairly good quantity of good-quality gypsum. If there is any demand from the Production Ministry or any other Ministry, we will be able to help them."

इस निश्चित उत्तर के प्रकाश में मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि वे कौन से कारण हैं जिनकी वजह से सिंदरी के लिए और दूसरे कारखानों के लिए बाहर से जिप्सम मंगाया जाता है ।

अब मैं इसके बारे में केवल इतना निवेदन और करना चाहता हूं कि और देशों से चाहे जिप्सम मंगाया जाये या न मंगाया जाये, लेकिन पाकिस्तान से जिप्सम मंगाने का क्या कारण है ? पाकिस्तान से हमारे सम्बन्ध मित्रतापूर्ण नहीं हैं, बल्कि बहुत से लोग तो शायद समझते हैं कि पाकिस्तान से हमारे सम्बन्ध शत्रुतापूर्ण हैं । उसके साथ हमारे ताल्लुकात अच्छे नहीं हैं । कभी भी हमारे और उनके बीच तनातनी हो सकती है और इस तरह से अगर हमें जिप्सम मंगाना है अपने कारखानों को चालू रखने के लिए तो पाकिस्तान के बजाय और देशों से मंगाने में क्या अड़चन है, उस पर भी जब मंत्री महोदय जवाब देंगे तो कुछ रोशनी डालने की कृपा करेंगे । वे यह भी बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि पाकिस्तान के साथ जो हमारा इक़रारनामा हुआ है वह कुल कितने जिप्सम के लिए है, कितने वर्षों के लिए है और किन शर्तों पर वह लिया जा रहा है, आया कि उससे सस्ता जिप्सम अधिक मात्रा में हमें और देशों से मिल सकता है या नहीं ?

दूसरी बात जो मैं कहना चाहता हूं और मैं समझता हूं कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय मुझ से सहमत होंगे कि आज हमारे देश के अंदर सिंदरी की तरह के जो बड़े-बड़े कारखाने चल रहे हैं, उनको वास्तव में स्वदेशी कहलाना है, क्योंकि वे हमारे देश के लिए गर्व और गौरव की चीज़ है । लेकिन सिंदरी आदि कारखानों में विदेशों से आया हुआ जिप्सम और रौ मैटीरियल (कच्ची सामग्री) इस्तेमाल किया जाये यह हमारे देश के लिए और हमारी सरकार के लिए शोभा और शान की बात नहीं है । मैं अब अधिक समय न लेकर मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूं कि

वे अपने जवाब में इस पर प्रकाश डालने की कृपा करेंगे ।

Shri D. C. Sharma (Hoshiarpur): I want to put a few questions to the hon. Minister. My first question is this. It is true that this is an *ad hoc* arrangement made with Pakistan for one year. But somehow in this world *ad hoc* arrangements become long-term arrangements and even permanent arrangements. What guarantee is there that this *ad hoc* arrangement will not become a permanent feature of our economy?

My second question is as follows: The private firm, which was supplying gypsum to the Sindri fertiliser factory, asked for some loan. I think they asked for about Rs. 3 lakhs. But that loan was not granted to them and no attempt was made to keep them going. Why is it that instead of getting gypsum from Pakistan or Somaliland or some other country, we could not put this company on its own feet.

Thirdly, the fact of the matter is this. The Ministry of Production acted on its own without taking the Ministry of Natural Resources and Scientific Research into confidence. It is strange that while both these Ministries belong to the same country and are wings of the same Government, the Ministry of Production should take a decision without consulting the other Ministry. At the same time, I want to say that so far as our own country is concerned, we have about 67·1 million tons of gypsum reserves available. The figures are: Bikaner, 20 million tons, Jodhpur, 16 million tons, Jaisalmer, 4 million tons, Kutch, 2 million tons, Saurashtra, 8·5 million tons; then in the Madras area, in Sulurpet and Tiruchirapelli, 15·3 million tons and ·1 million tons· then in Northern India, including U.P., ·2 million tons. Eve the district from which my hor. friend, Shri Bhakt Darshan comes has some gypsum. Then there is gypsum in the Simla Hill States and in Jammu and Kashmir.

I appreciate that we should get the things we do not have in our country. After all, we have to keep the wheels of industry running. We must get things from other countries. But when our own resources are so plentiful, I think it highly wasteful on the part of our Production Ministry to go in for this deal. They should try to put our own resources to use. They should have taken extra pains to do so. It has been said that the gypsum for the Fertiliser Factory should be of a very high quality and the gypsum which has been given by some of those mines in Bikaner is not of a high quality. This is not altogether correct. This is what the hon. Minister for Natural Resources and Scientific Research said that day:—Good quality gypsum is known to occur in various parts of the country, particularly in Rajasthan. He also said that there is no particular scheme for that purpose, because we have got sufficiently good quality of gypsum ranging from 90 to 96 per cent. purity. When you have gypsum of this high grade purity, I do not see any reason why you should try to go to some other country for its supply. We should have tried to exploit our own resources for that. Bikaner Company was giving us gypsum at the rate of Rs. 34-6-0 per ton. I think I am correct in my figures. If I am not, the hon. Minister will correct me, because I am not a man of flugures, but a man of facts.

The Minister of Production (Shri K. C. Reddy): Your figures are correct.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Thank you very much. From Pakistan we are getting gypsum at the rate of Rs. 40-6-6 per ton. Look at the difference. We are paying Rs. 6-0-6 more per ton to this Pakistan Company. I do not know how many wagons have arrived, because up to some time we had sent 200 wagons or more and those never came back. I do not know if they were loaded at all.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: It has been brought to my notice that there is no quorum.

Shri D. C. Sharma: I have almost come to the end of my speech. Please let me conlude it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: There is no quorum, and so the hon. Member may resume his seat. The bell is being rung.

Shri K. C. Reddy: May I know whether I can place a statement on the Table of the House on this subject, particularly with reference to the points that have been made by the hon. Members here?

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: A statement can be laid on the Table. Let us see whether we have a quorum now. I find there is no quorum. So, the House has to adjourn.

6-24 P.M.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, the 30th August, 1956.

DAILY DIGEST

[*Tuesday, 28th August, 1956*]

COLUMNS

QUESTION OF PRIVILEGE 4699—4703

Shri Frank Anthony raised a question of privilege regarding the report in the *Hindustan Times*, dated the 26th August, 1956, of his speech made in Lok Sabha on the 25th August, 1956. The Speaker observed that he would look into the matter

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 4703

A copy of the Report of the Plantation Inquiry Commission Part-I Tea, 1956, together with Appendices and Annexures was laid on the Table

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA 4703

Secretary reported a message from Rajya Sabha that at its sitting held on the 25th August, 1956, Rajya Sabha had agreed without any amendment to the States Reorganisation Bill, Passed by Lok Sabha on the 10th August, 1956

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED 4703

Sixtieth Report was presented

REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE ADOPTED . . . 4708—09

Fortieth Report was adopted

BILLS INTRODUCED— . 4709—18

(1) State Bank of Hyderabad Bill 4709

(2) Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (No. 2) Bill . 4709—10

BILLS PASSED— . . . 4709—10

The following Bills were considered and passed: 4719—4801

COLUMNS

(1) Travancore-Cochin Appropriation (No. 2) Bill . . 4709—10

(2) National Volunteer Force Bill . . . . . 4719—4801

BILL REFERRED TO JOINT COMMITTEE . . 4711—19

Further discussion on the motion to refer the Standards of Weights and Measures Bill to a Joint Committee was concluded and the motion was adopted

BILL UNDER CONSIDERATION . . . . . 4801—55

The motion to consider the Newspaper (Price and Page) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, was moved by the Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar) and discussed. The motion was adopted.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION . . . . . 4856—62

On behalf of Shri C. R. Narasimhan, Shri Bhakt Darshan raised a half-an-hour discussion on points arising out of answer given on the 13th August, 1956 to Starred Question No. 1018 regarding Gypsum

The Deputy Speaker directed that in reply to the debate, the Minister of Production might lay a statement on the Table . . . 4862

AGENDA FOR THURSDAY, 30TH AUGUST, 1956—

Consideration and passing of the Newspaper (Price and page) Bill, as passed by Rajya Sabha, and the State Financial Corporations (Amendment) Bill. Discussion on the Resolution *re.* Draft Mining Leases (Modification of Terms) Rules . .